



## RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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July 23, 2013

The Family and Friends of the Granite Mountain Hotshots  
C/O Fire Department  
1700 Iron Springs Road  
Prescott, Arizona 86305

In the late afternoon of June 28, 2013, apparently lightning ignited a wildland fire to be identified as the Yarnell Hill Fire near Yarnell, Arizona. That fire would challenge man until full containment on July 10, 2013. History will note that the Yarnell Hill Fire consumed more than eight thousand acres while destroying over one hundred and twenty buildings while first responders, support personnel, pieces of equipment, and support agencies responded without reservation to protect life, heritage, and property endangered by the event. More importantly, history will record a loss greater than acreage, buildings, and equipment will ever amount to. Nineteen firefighters of the Prescott, Arizona based Granite Mountain Hotshots crew paid the ultimate price while one suffered injuries. The individual members of fire crews such as your beloved in the Granite Mountain Hotshots, as well as other first responders and the United States Military each have their own reasons for assuming the responsibility of their position. It is our belief and understanding that each of your Hotshots crew members loved what they did and did it for the honor and privilege to protect and serve the many that they would never meet.

Ramona, California is in the rural foothills of San Diego County approximately thirty miles northeast of the City of San Diego. With our positioning and topography, we are exposed to wildland fires year round. With that exposure we know and appreciate the efforts taken by responders and supporting organizations every time the alarm goes off. Common sights in Ramona are organizations from throughout the Southwest United States as our town has been exposed to national news events such as the Cedar Fire (2003) and the Witch Creek Fire (2007) in recent history. We frequently watch responders face and attack threats that have unlimited potential and are resolved with results that may not merit more than one local news broadcast. Hotshot crews such as yours are frequently called upon to protect our lives, our heritage, and our property. We do not take this total effort lightly or without appreciation.

In reading the biographies of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, both those lost and the injured, through numerous references we appreciate their sincere dedication to their assumed duties. We know that no amount of appreciation or respect will replace your loved ones or mend your sorrow,

loss, and pain. As we watch our local responders act in a similar manner, we mourn and regret the loss of

Andrew Ashcraft, Firefighter

Robert Caldwell, Firefighter

Travis Carter, Firefighter

Dustin DeFord, Firefighter

Christopher MacKenzie, Firefighter

Eric Marsh, Superintendent

Grant McKee, Firefighter

Sean Misner, Firefighter

Scott Norris, Firefighter

Wade Parker, Firefighter

John Percin, Jr., Firefighter

Anthony Rose, Firefighter

Jesse Steed, Firefighter

Joe Thurston, Firefighter

Travis Turbyfill, Firefighter

William Warneke, Firefighter

Clayton Whitted, Firefighter

Kevin Woyjeck, Firefighter

Garret Zuppiger, Firefighter

and the injury to Firefighter Brendan McDonough.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your families during this time of recovery. Our deepest condolences, respect, and appreciation.

Most sincerely,

RMWD Board President

CAL FIRE Ramona Fire Chief

RMWD General Manager

  


