

Eldon Horst

La Canada Flintridge, Ca 91011

July 2, 2013

Dan Fraijo, Fire Chief
Granite Valley Hotshots
Prescott Fire Department
1700 Iron Springs Road
Prescott, Arizona 86305

Dear Chief Fraijo,

Please relay my appreciation for the work of the Granite Mountain Hotshots to their family and friends. I reside in La Canada Flintridge at the interface between the forest and the city. The work of Granite Mountain Hotshots is what saved this neighborhood and this city during the 2009 Station Fire. They created the space that allowed the engine crews to keep the fire away from residences in LCf. Without that space, the fire could have easily moved into the heavily vegetated residential areas and engulfed the city.

I found out just yesterday that the deceased firefighters were the Granite Mountain Hotshots. I feel a strong personal connection to the results of the heroic work this hotshot crew performed. I made the attached public expression of appreciation at last night's La Canada Flintridge city council meeting.

As I stated in closing last night, every time I see ground crews doing wildfire work I will always remember the Granite Mountain Hotshots.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eldon Horst', written in a cursive style.

Eldon Horst

E Horst Statement at July 1, 2013 La Canada Flintridge City Council Meeting:

On day 1 of the 2009 Station Fire, I watched from an upstairs window the fire cross the ridge from the station side to the La Canada side. At that time, I did not know what kind of devastation to expect. On day 2, I watched a crew clear a swath from the canyon above Harter Lane and move westerly across canyons above Big Briar, Haskell to Vista Miguel.

Their work was intense, hot, physically demanding and infested with poison oak. I did not think it was physically possible to clear what they cleared on the steep hillside slopes above us. Their work saved our neighborhood and possibly our city. It gave the crews stationed on our streets defensible space.

The crew in our neighborhood on that August 2009 day was the Granite Mountain Hotshots from Prescott Arizona. Today, we learned that 19 of this 20-member crew lost their lives in this dangerous occupation fighting a wind-driven fire in Arizona. Tonight, and in their memory, I want to publicly thank the Granite Mountain Hotshots for their heroic work here in La Canada. I want their family and friends to know that every time I see ground crews doing wildfire work, they will always be remembered.