

*Prescott Fire Department Administration
ATTN: PFFC Granite Mt. Donations
1700 Iron Springs Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305*

July 9, 2013

To the families of The Granite Mountain Hotshots:

I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families, friends and co-workers of these courageous 19 men. I cannot begin to fathom the grief that you must be feeling at this moment, but want you to know how deeply, deeply sorry I am for your loss.

As the mother of Morgan Byde, a member of the Breckenridge Hotshot crew, Havilah, California, I understand the fear that is underlying every time these brave firefighters go out on a call to protect our wonderful wild lands and sacrifice themselves to prevent harm to others they do not know. The one characteristic all of these "elite" firefighter's have in common, is a real joy for life and a commitment to their families, friends and job.

When I heard the news of the Granite Mountain Hotshots being surrounded by this monster fire, I was overwhelmed by a feeling of deep sadness. I received many, many phone calls asking me if my son was on this fire. All I could say was I was so saddened by the loss of an entire crew...and cry for your loss. I am still crying for your loss today. These were extraordinary men who did their jobs with joy; everyday.

I know I cannot begin to say how profoundly sorry I am for your loss, I hope you receive comfort in knowing you will meet again and until that day, your loved one will be looking over you from above and protecting you.