

From the Desk of....
Douglas G. Wright

Friday, July 26, 2013

Dan Fraijo
Fire Chief
City of Prescott Fire Department
Station #72
1700 Iron Springs Road
Prescott, Arizona 86305

RE: Remembrance of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Crewmen

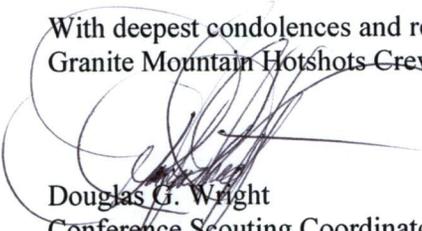
Dear Chief Fraijo:

The tragic loss of the nineteen members of the Granite Hotshots Crewmen battling the 8,400 acre Yarnell Hills Fire is still a fresh memory in the minds and hearts of all Arizonans and Americans across the land. We pray healing comfort for the families and the good people of Prescott, who grieve the losses of these nineteen courageous public servants.

After the news broke, I coordinated with Larry Coppock, National Director of Strength For Service in Nashville, and were proud to send one hundred gift copies of the non-denominational Strength For Service Daily Devotional books to Fire Station #72, to be distributed to family and members of Prescott Fire staff. From prior experience, we know that friends and family alike will find great solace in reading these books as a continuing source of comfort and inspiration, coping with their profound grief in the loss of first responders like the Granite Mountain Hotshots Crewman.

Chief Fraijo, I was privileged to conduct a Vesper Service on Sunday, July 14 at the Camp Lawton Boy Scout Camp honoring the memory of these incredibly brave community fire fighter servants. Prior to arriving at the Vesper Service site, all 56 scouts, leaders and members of the Tucson Boys Chorus attending Vespers that evening may have noticed a beautiful rainbow arching gracefully across the Tucson valley. The fact was not lost that at this very spot just over ten years earlier, many more gallant firefighters quelled the ferocious Aspen Fire (it burned 84,750 acres for about a month beginning on June 17, 2003). The fire stopped less than one hundred yards from the vespers site, saving Camp Lawton from almost certain destruction. Due to the heroic actions of these firefighters, many of whom were Eagle Scouts, the vespers gathering came away knowing the spirits of these nineteen Granite Mountain Hotshots Crewmen were uplifted into the arms of God's eternal care.

With deepest condolences and respect to those families and friends of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Crewmen, Prescott Fire Department,



Douglas G. Wright
Conference Scouting Coordinator
Desert Southwest Conference (AZ & part of NV)
National Member, Scouting Ministry Committee,
Strength For Service Task Force
The United Methodist Church

7772 North Sun Flair Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85741
Office & Facsimile: Ph: # (520) 887-8700
Email: dwright5@qwest.net

**Scout Vespers Service @ Camp Lawton
Mt. Lemmon, Arizona
Sunday, July 14, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.**



A non-denominational, Scout Vespers service was conducted by Douglas G. Wright, Scouting Ministry Specialist (SMS) for the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, on Sunday, July 14, 2013. The services at the Catalina Council's Camp Lawton welcomed the presence of 56 Scout youth, many of which included boys from the Tucson Boys Chorus enjoying a week of camping atop Mt. Lemmon. The service was dedicated as a tribute to the nineteen firefighters, who recently perished June 30th in the Yarnell, Arizona fire near Prescott. Vespers was also the time to reflect on the sacrifice and heroic efforts made by those firefighters (many Eagle scouts) who battled the month-long Aspen Fire (84,750 acres) from June 17 to mid July 2003, which destroyed 340 homes and businesses in Summerhaven. The fire came to within a hundred yards of Lawton's south boundary. Scripture read, Matthew Chapter 7 vs. 7, "Ask, Seek, & Knock."



VESPERS Services @ Camp Lawton
Sunday, July 14, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.

- **Welcome to the Tucson Boys Chorus, Dr. Julian Ackerley, Director
Prayer by Doug Wright, Scouting, Ministry Specialist,
Vice President, Endowment & Major Gifts, Catalina Council, B.S.A.**

- **Scripture Verse: Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 7 - “Ask, Seek, Knock”
7“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and
the door will be opened to you. 8“For everyone who asks receives,
and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be
opened.**

**P.R.A.Y. Program – Programs of Religious Activities with Youth – Non-
denominational – How many here today have received a Religious Award
from the church of your faith? Are you interested in attaining this goal?**

**Tribute to the Nineteen, Fallen Yarnell Fighters and the Firefighters who
saved Camp Lawton from the ravages of the Aspen Fire that burned for
almost a month from June 17th to mid-July, 2003.**

**Offering – WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND – emphasize The Friendship Fund
helps Scouting as a global youth movement.**

**God bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home
God bless America, My home sweet home.**

**Closing Prayer: Oh Bountiful Father in Heaven, Guide these young
Scouts and young men with Wisdom, Courage, and Strength by your
Holy Words, for the Brotherhood of Mankind. We thank thee oh
Father, each and every day for thy many Blessings and may we Ask,
Seek, and Knock at your door for the comfort and guidance of your
many blessings. This we ask in thy name – AMEN**

**P.S. There were a total of 56 scouts, boys and adult leaders present
attending Vespers. Service concluded at 7:50 PM.**

RESPONSES TO STRENGTH FOR SERVICE

"Thank you and all who have contributed to publishing Strength for Service. You have touched many lives in a positive, faith-promoting way. Please continue the good work. God bless and simper fidelis."

Chaplain (Lieutenant) Clifford A. Stuart
101st Airborne, Fort Campbell, Ky.

"Soldiers like the format and they like the way in which it ties them to past generations. Patients and staff find the book just as uplifting today as it must have been for men and women in World War II and the Korean War. The books continue to touch more souls every day."

Senior Chaplain (Major) John L. Kallerson
Walter Reed Army Medical Center,
Washington, DC

"Strength for Service has proven to be a real blessing to my husband, Bill, who is proudly serving in our armed forces stationed in Kuwait. He has shared the book with some of the other men in his unit and the chaplain now uses my husband's copy every day when he prays with the helicopter pilots as they prepare to make their flights."

Deborah Johnson
Hiram, Ga.

"I really appreciate the copies of Strength for Service to God and Country! I work with basic training soldiers—as well as drill sergeants and some other soldiers. I get many requests for religious reading material—especially since the basic training soldiers aren't allowed to read other materials—so this book really helps. It is a great durable book that can go anywhere with them. Thank you for this ministry you provide for our soldiers. It is a real blessing, and can certainly have great eternal value! May God Bless each of you involved with the Strength for Service project."

Chaplain (Captain) Doug Hoover
2-10 Infantry Battalion
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

Strength for Service Publication Fund
General Commission
on United Methodist Men
PO Box 440515
Nashville, TN 37244-0515
(615) 340-7145

ORDERING INFORMATION

Toll free: 800-672-1789
Online: www.StrengthforService.org
or www.cokesbury.com
By Mail: Cokesbury
201 8th Ave. South
PO Box 801
Nashville, TN 37202-0801

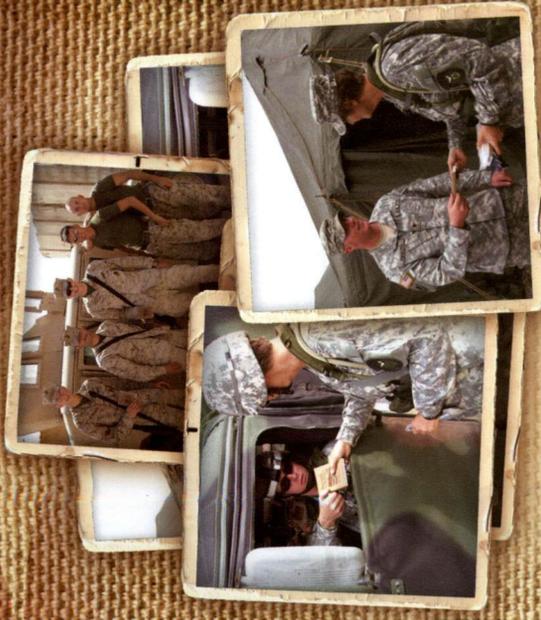
PRICING

Single copy retail price: \$7
Multiple copies: bulk pricing
10-20 copies: 10% off
21-50 copies: 20% off
51-99 copies: 25% off
100+ copies: 30% off

Shipping and handling charges will apply on all orders. State sales tax, if applicable.

Strength for Service

TO GOD AND COUNTRY



Strength for Service

TO GOD AND COUNTRY

A Daily Devotional for Military and Public Service Professionals

www.StrengthforService.org

OVERVIEW

More than one million *Strength for Service* books were distributed during World War II and the Korean conflict before it went out of print. Fifty years later, a young boy named Evan Hunsberger was inspired by his grandfather's worn copy and began working to republish the book as his Eagle Scout project.

Starting with his grandfather's original book, Evan made slight editorial changes in the text and solicited additional contributions from many of today's religious leaders. Evan's new edition was faithful to the 1942 edition while reflecting a contemporary flavor that considers present day concerns.

Strength for Service, which is the only book of its kind, was released in 2002, and has since been distributed to more than 375,000 people of all denominations. The General Commission on United Methodist Men is the organization behind raising funds and distributing books on a daily basis.

The pocket-sized devotional has a waterproof and tear-resistant soft cover binding and contains 365 devotions written by leading Protestant ministers in the early 1940s, along with 40 additional contributions from women, Roman Catholic clergy, African American and other ethnic minority leaders and representatives of other faith groups.

Strength for Service books have not only been given to troops deploying to the Middle East, they have also been sent to institutions caring for the wounded.

However, with new deployments, thousands of troops still need this historic book. Chaplains and other religious leaders note that these young men and women often raise questions about spiritual issues they had ignored until they were forced to acknowledge their own mortality.

STRENGTH FOR SERVICE FACTS

Below are some interesting facts about *Strength for Service* and the impact it continues to make in the lives of our military.

- ★ Since 2002, *Strength for Service* has been distributed to more than 375,000 people.
- ★ *Strength for Service*'s website includes all the devotionals from the book.
- ★ Last year more than 35,000 books were distributed, proving the need for *Strength for Service* continues to be great.
- ★ *Strength for Service* has partnered with a variety of military service organizations to increase distribution of the books to our nation's troops.
- ★ *Strength for Service* is a member of America Supports You, a Department of Defense program recognizing citizens' support for our military and communicating that support to members of our Armed Forces and their families, at home and abroad.
- ★ *Strength for Service*'s team travels to events informing chaplains about the book and the support of churches and individuals to provide it to the military free of charge.

"In the past few hours, I showed the devotional online to a fellow chaplain who is leaving tomorrow for northern

Iraq for 15 months. He was excited about the prospect of getting some of the Strength for Service devotional guides. He will join his unit that just arrived in Iraq and whose commander is a previous parishioner of mine. He is requesting 100 to 120 of the devotionals for the three hundred troops he will be caring for driving convoys from Turkey to Baghdad."

Chaplain (Captain) Steven Lambert
U.S. Army, Alaska



THE GOAL

Help us give a copy of the *Strength for Service to God and Country* daily devotional to every active duty member of the United States Armed Forces. You can participate in the effort to underwrite the publication and distribution of one million copies of this historic book.

DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION

Many scout troops and other community organizations also distribute the books to police, firefighters, paramedics, prison guards and other public servants in their local communities. Discounts for bulk purchases have made this effort affordable.

SPECIAL EDITIONS

For large quantity orders (10,000 or more copies) special bindings with type or logo of a sponsoring church or organization may be added to the stamping on the cover. Call 866-297-4312 for information.

