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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 917 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FARRY, PETRI, VEREB, KIRKLAND, COHEN, READSHAW,  
SONNEY, McNEILL, CORBIN, AUMENT, V. BROWN, O'NEILL, BIZZARRO,  
MICOZZIE, CALTAGIRONE, BROOKS, PAYNE, LONGIETTI, HENNESSEY,  
BOBACK, BARRAR, DIGIROLAMO, TURZAI, D. COSTA, TOBASH, DAVIS,  
YOUNGBLOOD, COX, BAKER, SAYLOR, SWANGER, HICKERNELL,  
MARSHALL, THOMAS, MAJOR, C. HARRIS, HAHN, GODSHALL, LUCAS,  
MURT, SANTARSIERO, MIRABITO, MENTZER, MILLARD AND SABATINA,  
JUNE 23, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 23, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the first anniversary of the 19 Granite Mountain  
2 Hotshot members who gave their lives in the line of duty.

3 WHEREAS, June 29, 2014, is the one year anniversary of the  
4 start of the wildfire that claimed the lives of 19 firefighters;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, On June 29, 2013, a wildfire was started by an  
7 apparent lightning strike; and

8 WHEREAS, The wildfire began to spread through Yarnell,  
9 Arizona; and

10 WHEREAS, At least 2,000 acres were covered by the wildfire by  
11 Sunday, June 30, 2013, when the temperature reached triple-  
12 digits with low humidity and windy conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, The unexpected change in weather on Sunday afternoon  
14 precipitated the deadliest single day for United States

1 firefighters since September 11, 2001; and

2 WHEREAS, The Granite Mountain Hotshots are an elite group of  
3 firefighters specializing in attacking wildfires that endanger  
4 life and property; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 30, 2013, 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots,  
6 while working on the front lines of the Yarnell Hill wildfire,  
7 died in the line of duty when the weather suddenly changed and  
8 the wind shifted, causing the wildfire to overtake them after  
9 deploying their personal fire shelters; and

10 WHEREAS, The 19 Hotshot members whose ages ranged from 21 to  
11 43 left behind 10 widows, 3 fiancées, 10 children and 3 unborn  
12 children; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the Hotshots was twenty-three year old Robert  
14 Caldwell who was born in Bucks County, and resided there until  
15 about 15 years ago, when his family moved to Arizona; therefore  
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania commemorate and honor these 19  
19 heroes: Andrew Ashcroft, Robert Caldwell, Travis Carter, Dustin  
20 Deford, Chris MacKenzie, Eric March, Grant McKee, Sean Misner,  
21 Scott Norris, Wade Parker, John Percin, Jr., Anthony Rose, Jesse  
22 Steed, Joe Thurston, Travis Turbyfill, William Werneke, Clayton  
23 Whitted, Kevin Woyjeck and Garret Zuppiger, for their great  
24 bravery and sacrifice in the face of dire situations; and be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the firefighters who put  
28 themselves in dangerous situations to protect innocent people  
29 and property every day, and especially the Granite Mountain  
30 Hotshots who sacrificed their lives to protect the citizens of

1 their community; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
3 the Prescott Fire Department, 501 6th Street, Prescott, AZ  
4 86301, to be distributed to the families of the fallen 19  
5 Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters.