

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 943 Session of 2014

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, SABATINA, GRELL, FARINA, GINGRICH, MARSICO, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROSS, GILLEN, DeLUCA, GOODMAN, WATSON AND CLYMER, JULY 1, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JULY 1, 2014

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 Ashcraft, Robert Caldwell, Travis Carter, Dustin
20 Deford, Chris MacKenzie, Eric Marsh, Grant McKee, Sean Misner,
21 Scott Norris, Wade Parker, John Percin, Anthony Rose, Jesse
22 Steed, Joe Thurston, Travis Turbyfill, William Warneke, 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.