

2013 -- S 1043

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHIES ON THE TRAGIC LOSS OF NINETEEN
HEROIC MEMBERS OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Goodwin, Paiva Weed, Algieri, and Satchell

Date Introduced: July 02, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, As all firefighters know and carry with them into each and every fire
2 situation they encounter, wildfires are erratic, unpredictable, and immensely dangerous. Yet these
3 brave guardians of public safety continue to face the flames and protect our country's citizenry,
4 our property, and our forests; and

5 WHEREAS, In what would be their final act of bravery, nineteen members of the elite
6 Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots bunkered down under survival blankets in
7 a last-ditch effort to survive a nearly 9,000-acre wildfire surrounding and blazing towards them in
8 central Arizona; and

9 WHEREAS, Wind shifts and other factors had hampered the team's efforts to set up
10 barriers to contain the destructive path of the fire as the inferno turned heartbreakingly deadly;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Firefighters Eric Marsh, the unit's Superintendent, together with Andrew
13 Ashcraft, Robert Caldwell, Travis Carter, Dustin Deford, Christopher MacKenzie, Grant McKee,
14 Sean Misner, Scott Norris, Wade Parker, John Percin, Anthony Rose, Jesse Steed, Joe Thurston,
15 Travis Turbyfill, William Warneke, Clayton Whitted, Kevin Woyjeck, and Garret Zuppiger gave
16 their lives in the line of duty; and

17 WHEREAS, To the parents who face the unnatural act of burying their sons, to the wives
18 who are forever separated from their husbands, to the children who have lost their dads, and to a
19 community that has lost nineteen brave and noble friends, know that the citizens of Rhode Island

1 and indeed millions across the country mourn with you; and

2 WHEREAS, These nineteen men enriched the lives of all who knew them and the legacy
3 of their lives and their sacrifice will live on in the memories of everyone fortunate enough to have
4 known these beloved husbands and sons, devoted fathers, loving brothers, and great friends. Their
5 final bequest of bravery, love, and devotion will hopefully provide a small measure of comfort in
6 the months and years ahead to those they leave behind; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
8 hereby offers our deepest sympathy and prayers to the families and friends of the nineteen fallen
9 Granite Mountain Hotshots; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Prescott Fire Chief Dan Fraijo.

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