

# Our Fallen Brothers

**A CELEBRATION OF LIFE**



# Our Fallen Brothers

## Prescott Fire Department

### Granite Mountain Hot Shots

#### Memorial Service • July 9, 2013

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**PRELUDE**.....On Eagle's Wings  
Greater Arizona Congress Choir  
John J. Flaherty, Director

**PROCESSION** .....Prescott Fire Department Honor Guard  
Prescott Fire Department  
Combined Fire, Emergency Services and Military Honor Guard  
All Uniformed Fire Fighters and Emergency Responders

**MASTER OF CEREMONY** .....Tim Hill, President  
Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona

**US NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**OPENING PRAYER** .....Ron Merrell, Teaching Pastor  
Heights Church

**DARRELL WILLIS**.....Division Chief  
Prescott Fire Department

**CHIEF DAN FRAIJO**.....Fire Chief  
Prescott Fire Department

**FLAG AND PULASKI PRESENTATION**

*Fire Chief Fraijo will command the presentation of the American flag and Pulaski tool to the families of our fallen fire fighters. The flags have been provided by U.S. Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner (R-Ohio) who had each flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of our fallen Brothers. The bronzed Pulaski tool represents the wildland fire fighting community and each has been provided by the Prescott National Forest Fire Fighters. The Pulaski is a special hand tool used in wildland fire fighting for the past 100 years.*

**MUSICAL SELECTION**.....You Raise Me Up  
Greater Arizona Congress Choir

**THE HONORABLE MARLIN KUYKENDALL** .....Mayor  
City of Prescott

**THE HONORABLE JAN BREWER** .....Governor  
State of Arizona

**THE HONORABLE JOE BIDEN**.....Vice President  
United States of America

**MUSICAL TRIBUTE**

**DAN BATES** .....Prescott Chapter Vice President  
United Yavapai Fire Fighters Association, Local 3066

**HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER**.....General President  
International Association of Fire Fighters

*After IAFF General President Schaitberger delivers his comments, he will direct the presentation of the IAFF Medal of Honor. This gold medal is awarded to the families of IAFF members who are killed in the line of duty. It features the IAFF logo flanked by oak leaf clusters and bears the words "Dedication, Honor, Sacrifice." The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 2,159 IAFF members killed in the line of duty since it was established in 1990.*

**THE HOT SHOT'S PRAYER**

.....Hot Shot Crew Member Brendan McDonough

**THE FINAL ALARM**

.....Prescott Fire Department Honor Guard

**TAPS** .....Combined Fire, Emergency Services  
and Military Honor Guard

**MUSICAL SELECTION** .....Amazing Grace  
Arizona Fire Fighters and Public Safety Massed Pipes and Drums  
Greater Arizona Congress Choir

**DISMISSAL** .....Prescott Fire Department  
All Uniformed Fire Fighters and Public Safety Personnel

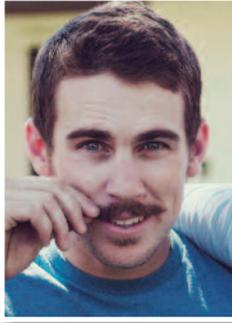
**POSTLUDE**.....An Irish Blessing  
Greater Arizona Congress Choir

*We Will Always Remember*  
*June 30, 2013*

## Andrew Sterling Ashcraft

Andrew Sterling Ashcraft was born on February 15, 1984, to parents Debrah Pfingston and Thomas Ashcraft in Orange, California. At the age of five, Andrew moved to Prescott with his family, where he spent the next 24 years of his life with his brother Thomas James (T.J.) Ashcraft II and his sister Shelby Laura Pfingston. Growing up in Prescott, Andrew attended Abia Judd Elementary School, Mile High Middle School and graduated from Prescott High School in 2003. It was at Prescott High that he met the love of his life, Juliann Crockett Ashcraft. The two were married on July 22, 2006, in Prescott, and have four children: Ryder Sterling 6, Shiloh 4, Tate Andrew 2, and Choice Crockett 18 months.

Andrew became a member of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in 2011, and was awarded the “Rookie of the Year” honors for that fire season. He loved every second of his time on the crew and had dreamt of being a fire fighter since he was a boy. Andrew was known for his contagious smile, his heart of gold, his genuinely kind spirit, and for loving his mustache. He was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Most importantly, he was a loving husband, a tender father and a friend to all.



## Robert E. Caldwell

“I’d rather die in my boots than live in a suit.” Robert Caldwell lived by these words, and was always a man true to his word. He died with honor with his brothers in the line of duty with his boots tight on his feet. Compassionate, sensitive and never afraid to show his true emotions to those he loved and held close to his heart, Robert was unquestionably the most amazing husband, son, brother, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Claire, son Zion, his mother and father Dave and Linda Caldwell, and his sister Taylor Caldwell.

His wife, Claire, says, “I am fortunate to be Robert’s wife. While I didn’t have him in my life long enough, each moment that we shared was a blessing. The night we met, we knew it in our hearts that we were soul mates. We had known each other for a thousand years before and would know each other for another thousand years. Robert was the kind of man every man strives to be — he was the husband every woman dreams of and a father a child could look up to. We were all so blessed to have him in our lives and I will carry him in my heart for the rest of my life. There simply aren’t enough words to explain the love and gratitude I feel for him.”



## Travis Clay Carter

Travis Carter was born on August 7, 1982, in Prescott, Arizona, to Tripp Carter and Glenna Echol. As a little boy, he loved to work on the Necktie Ranch in Walnut Grove with his dad, Trip Carter and grandpa, Arden Carter.

He rode tractors, played in the snow and loved Christmas time with his extended family at the ranch.

As he grew older, Travis began to become a real help on the ranch and, according to his dad, he was a good hand and worked, branded and shipped cattle, drove the large equipment and was a great horse shoer.

Approaching high school, Travis was an outstanding athlete and in 2000 began school at Orme in Dewey, Arizona where he played football and was an all state, all conference football player. He scored 16 touchdowns his senior year as tailback.

Married in 2005 to Krista Smalley, the couple has two children, Brayden and Brielle.

His fire fighting career began in 2005 where he worked for the Prescott National Forest as a hotshot and worked on the Rodeo-Chediski Fire and many others until 2009. In 2009 he was chosen to be among the elite Granite Mountain Hot Shots crew through the City of Prescott. In 2009, the City received a grant from FEMA for fire fighting, which provided a full-time career for each member of the crew. Their job was, in the off season, to trim brush and limbs to protect the areas in and around Prescott. They are known as Prescott’s Finest and were professionals with a great deal of training.

Travis has said that one of his favorite places on earth is the fishing pond at the ranch. His family is grateful to the Lord for Travis’ life and for the time they had with him. He will be greatly missed but know he is finally home with the Lord, whom he loved.



## Dustin James DeFord

Dustin James DeFord, 24, was born December 13, 1988, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Steve and Celeste (Crago) DeFord. Dustin joined brothers Brandon, Darren, Jonathan and Ryan. Later, Kenton, Stephen, Rebecca, Nathaniel and Heidi completed the family. The family moved to Columbus, Montana, in 1990 and later to Ekalaka, Montana, in 1996.

Like his siblings, Dustin was homeschooled through elementary and high school, graduating in 2007. He attended Cornerstone Bible Institute in Hot Springs, South Dakota, graduating in 2010. Dustin decisively put his trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior as a young boy. In 2011, he took a short-term mission trip to Northern Alberta, Canada. Through college and after, Dustin worked for the Carter County Fire and Mitigation crew in Ekalaka. His ambition was to be a hotshot fire fighter, so he was thrilled when he was accepted this spring with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots.

Dustin was the “life of the party” at any gathering of friends or family. He loved entertaining with his goofy humor, hunting, spotlighting, espresso coffee, noise of any kind, social life and life in general. He could be seen reading his Bible every morning.

Dustin is survived by his parents, Steve and Celeste DeFord, seven brothers — SSgt Brandon DeFord, Jonathan and Rachel (Anderson) DeFord, Darren and Becky (King) DeFord, Ryan DeFord, Kenton DeFord, Stephen DeFord and Nathaniel Deford — two sisters Rebecca DeFord and Heidi DeFord, one nephew Tucker DeFord, three nieces Sage DeFord, April DeFord, and Samantha DeFord, grandparents, Lyle and Emily DeFord and Bill and Flo Crago, and too many aunts, uncles and cousins to list.



## Christopher A. MacKenzie

Chris MacKenzie was born September 12, 1982 with eyelashes that women would die for. He was taken home to San Bernadino to meet his 17-month-old brother, Aaron. When he was three, his family moved to Hemet where he attended elementary, middle and high school. He was in the GATE program when in elementary school for exceptional students and a Boy Scout who earned his Eagle Scout. He was a big kid, and played football at Hemet High for four years. After high school, Chris developed a passion for snowboarding, and moved to Big Bear to work for Snow Summit for four seasons, where he became an excellent snow boarder. His next adventure began when he applied to be a seasonal fire fighter with the U.S. Forest Service, and served on the Taquitz crew in the San Jacinto National Forest. He went on to serve on a helicopter crew for the Bureau of Land Management and the Mill Creek hot shots in the San Bernardino National Forest. He was invited to apply to the Granite Mountain Hot Shots by Aaron Stevens, one of his former captains, and had just started his third season as a full time employee of Prescott Fire Department as a lead crew member.

Chris lived his life to the fullest and collected friendships like people collect shot glasses. He loved fighting wildfires and said “it was a way to see the most beautiful country in America.” He was loved by everyone who knew him and will forever have a place in their hearts.

Christopher is survived by his mother Lauri Goralski, father Michael MacKenzie, brother Aaron MacKenzie, stepmother Janice MacKenzie, and stepsisters Janae Gier and Jill Allison.

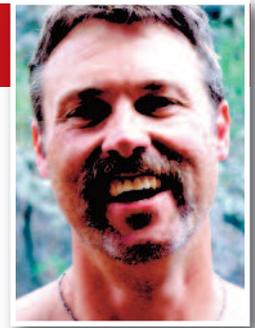


## Eric S. Marsh

A loving husband and dedicated son, Eric Shane Marsh born and raised in the mountains of North Carolina. He graduated with honors from Ashe Central High, where he was a running back on the football team. He graduated from Appalachian State with a degree as a biologist/naturalist, and worked and excelled at several jobs, but the one he really loved was wildland fire fighting. He worked for several years with the Globe hot shots out of Tonto National Forest. Eric had a great love for the outdoors. He was a rock and ice climber who proposed to his wife on an ice climbing trip to Ouray, Colorado. He was also an equestrian with a great love for his horse “Shorty,” a skier and a member of the ski patrol at Sunrise Mountain, a fisherman, motorcyclist and avid cyclist and mountain biker. He competed in endurance mountain bike races and recently completed a 24-hour mountain bike race as a part of a four-person relay team. He and a friend made a pact to compete in the next 24-hour race as solo competitors.

Eric was also a talented tile setter, stone mason and gifted welder/fabricator. He joined the City of Prescott in 2003 as part of the Fuels Management Crew and worked to build a city-sponsored wildland team. He was an instrumental part of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots organization. He helped start the Arizona Wildfire Academy (from his living room), where he taught basic fire fighting, Squad Boss and leadership classes. He liked to say that working on the crew “turned boys into men.” He was so well known for his quotes and sayings that his crew wrote down his “Ericisms.”

Eric’s wife, Amanda, and his parents, John and Jane, want Eric remembered as a compassionate, good-hearted, loyal and generous man of integrity who loved his family, his life, and being a Granite Mountain Hot Shot.



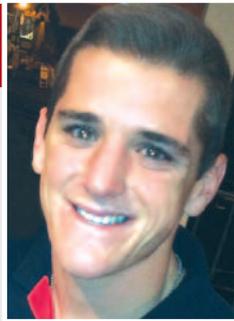
## Grant Quinn McKee

Grant Quinn McKee was a true brave heart. To say he had the heart of a lion falls short of whom he was. Grant was born May 18, 1992, in Newport Beach, California, to Marcia and G. Scott McKee. Everything he did was threaded with respect and care for other people’s feelings. Grant honored those around him. He loved his mother, father and grandmother.

Grant moved to Prescott and met the love of his life Leah Fine. Leah is like an angel. She made Grant complete and together they exemplified what love is. Grant wanted to travel the world with Leah.

He enjoyed wrestling in high school and running marathons. His competitive nature, coupled with his desire to help others, was from where others drew strength. Always loving, kind and respectful. Fear was never part of the equation. Grant brought light in a sometimes dark world. He saw the crew as what they will always be — brothers.

While attending Prescott high school, Grant spoke at other high schools in Yavapai County spreading the anti-drug message with the D. A. R. E program. He received his EMT from Yavapai College and joined his cousin, Robert Caldwell, on the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in 2013.



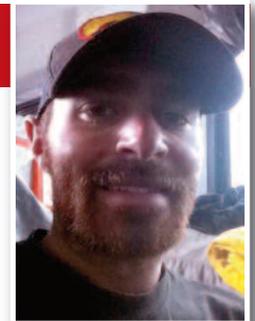
## Sean M. Misner

Sean Michael Misner was born April 8th 1987, in Goleta California. He attended Santa Ynez High school and played high school football and ran track. From the age of 10, Sean played football, baseball and soccer. Because of his size, his nickname on the high school football team was “Mighty Mouse.” He was also known as Spiderman because of how the ball would stick to his hands. Sean always wanted to play

professional football for the Dallas Cowboys, but quickly realized his true passion was to be a fire fighter like his grandfather, great grandfather, uncles and cousin. He loved to be outdoors — at the Red Rock River, the ocean, hiking and snowboarding. At Santa Barbara City College, he played football. He moved to Wyoming with his best friend, Jason Lambert, but returned to Santa Ynez after only three months. He became an assistant football coach for Dunn High School, and also worked at Los Olivos grocery where he met his wife, Amanda Misner (Wilkinson) in 2010. He moved to Auburn, Alabama — again with Jason. This time, it was his love for a girl he had just met that brought him home.

Sean proposed on April 8th, 2012 (his birthday) and was married September 15, 2012. The couple moved to Prescott Valley, where Sean worked with Mountain West Aviation as a line tech while pursuing his dream and passion of becoming a wildland fire fighter. On January 1, 2013, Sean learned he was going to be a father for the first time to a son. April 8th was his first day with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots. Sean spoke highly of all his crew members, and he trusted every single one of them to have his back. Sean’s smile could light up a room and he became instant friends with people he met.

Everyone who knew the devoted husband, father-to-be, son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend, could count on him. Sean will be missed, but we know our angel in heaven will be watching over his family with his grandpa, “Smokey.”



## Scott Daniel Norris

For one so young, Scott Daniel Norris, 28, led a full, adventurous life. He was born October 12, 1984, and was a resident of the Prescott area all his life. He attended Liberty Traditional School and Bradshaw Mountain High School, graduating in 2003. He then attended Yavapai College, where he received his fire fighter certification. He has worked for Pro Water Irrigation, NAU Biology Dept., Payson hot shots, and most recently Bucky O'Neil's Gun Store and Granite Mountain Hot Shots. Scott served as a hot shot for five years.

He loved people, great food, and a good challenge. He was clear-thinking, thoughtful, witty, hard-working, courageous and had a true talent for making others laugh and enjoy life. He had a passion for God's nature, and spent much of his time outdoors – hiking, biking, climbing, backpacking, and snowboarding.

He made several backpacking excursions in the Grand Canyon, and in 2010 was trip leader for a 230-mile, 20-day private raft trip down the Colorado River with his parents and close friends. He also traveled to Thailand, Cambodia and Central America. Scott made it a priority to spend time with family, friends, his girlfriend Heather, and their dogs. Scott and Heather made trips to Beaver Creek, Clear Creek, Fossil Creek, and were regulars at IHOP and Toi Thai.

Scott was an exceptional writer. While traveling he sent descriptive, entertaining emails, and once in a while penned a poem. He enjoyed learning — from dog training to firearms, and was passionate about weather watching, especially thunderstorms and snowstorms.

Scott was a brother to his fellow Hot Shots. He had a magnetic personality and brilliant mind. Payson hotshot Evan Whetten said Scott was “one of the toughest, most unbreakable guys. He had the biggest and sweetest heart of anyone I'd ever known. He would do absolutely anything for a friend.”



## Wade S. Parker

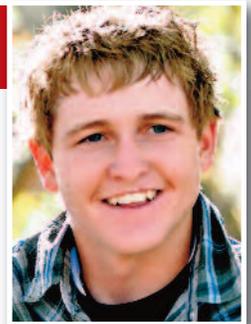
Wade Scott Parker was born October 30, 1990, in Prescott. He was raised in Chino Valley, and graduated from Chino Valley High School in 2009. Wade was a motivated and driven young man. He loved competition and always gave 110 percent. He grew up an athlete playing baseball and football from the time he was five years old, winning championships in youth football and little league. His father coached him and was the influence that made him the great player he was. He played shortstop and was captain of the Chino Valley Baseball team, earning numerous awards and becoming a four-year letterman in baseball making the All-State team. Wade played at Lamar Community College on a scholarship. He also lettered in football and recorded the second-highest number of interceptions in a single season and high school career.

His first job was at In-N-Out Burger in Prescott – his favorite place to eat. A Christian man, Wade worshiped Jesus and wanted to lead worship someday.

Wade met the love of his life, Alicia Owens, in high school when he was 16. He swept her away to Disneyland and proposed to her in 2012. They were to be married October 19, 2013.

Wade decided at a very young age to follow in his father's footsteps in the fire service. He joined the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in 2012 and was Rookie of the Year his first season.

Wade was a man of honor, integrity and wisdom beyond his years. He had a beautiful smile, a great hug and was a wonderful young man. He will be missed by all.



## John J. Percin, Jr.

John Percin loved his family and his beautiful English Lab, Champ, more than anything in the world. John's honesty and loyalty guided him every step of the way, and will continue to touch many forever. John's smile, kindness and warm embrace were unmatched.

All of those who knew John felt the exact same way.

John is forever grateful for the love and support of the Prescott, Arizona community — a tight-knit place where he bettered himself and proudly called home. He was forever touched by the love of his friends at the Chapter Five Recovery Center, and he was equally touched by the love of his brothers in the Granite Mountain Hot Shots.

John's passion for life was deep. He approached every day with optimism and excitement. John was truly at peace when he was out enjoying the beauty of life. While he shined in everything he did, his true passions were hiking, basketball and family. John is a hero who made us all so very proud. He and his brothers will never be forgotten.



## Anthony M. Rose

Anthony Rose wasn't just a son, fiancé, brother or soon-to-be father – he was a hero to his family, friends, and to his community. He was born in Zion, Illinois, where he spent the early part of his life. He came to Arizona at 16, and lived in Crown King for more than five years with his uncle. He was hired by the Crown King Fire Department when he turned 18. In 2008, the Lane Two Fire broke out in Crown King. After helping with the fire and seeing the hot shots working so hard to save the town he lived in, he decided to become a wildland fire fighter. He became captain on Engine 3 in Crown King almost a year later and then trained with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots.

In 2012, he began working for the Granite Mountain Hot Shots. He loved his first year with the crew and bonded with everyone in a special way, earning the nickname “Baby G.” In January 2013 he and his girlfriend, Tiffany, moved to Prescott Valley and on February 1<sup>st</sup> found out that they were expecting a girl. He was so excited to be a daddy. Before he left to work the Yarnell Fire, he kissed Tiffany's tummy, and told their baby girl to be good for mommy. He told her he loved her so much and would see her soon, not knowing that he would not be returning. Now they will always have a guardian angel looking down on them and he will always be by their side, forever, until they meet again.



## Jesse James Steed

Jesse James Steed was born in Cottonwood, Arizona, September 28, 1976, to Claudia Federwisch. Jesse was the beloved husband of Desiree Steed and amazing father to Caden 4, and Cambria 3. He was the second-oldest of four siblings — Cassidy Steed, Levi Federwisch and Taunya Steed — and grandson to Herman and Reaut Federwisch. Jesse was an amazing individual, husband, father and brother to all. His children and wife were the light of his life; he was a truly dedicated family man.

Jesse grew up in the Southwest calling the quad city area his home. After Jesse graduated from high school he joined the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1996 until 2000. He joined the Forest Service in 2001, often saying it was the closest thing to military camaraderie that he could find in the civilian world. He worked on the Prescott Hotshot, Helitack and engine crews until he became a part of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in 2009. He proudly served as the Captain to a crew he referred to as a brotherhood.

Jesse enjoyed being outdoors hiking, running and biking. He had a need for speed, whether it be on a street bike, dirt bike or sand rail. He loved spending time with his kids doing whatever they wanted to do. He was a big kid himself, often being called a teddy bear and a gentle giant. He was always the life of the party and the comedian of the group. He loved making people happy.

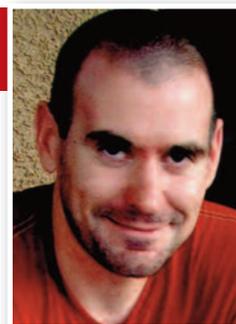
Jesse had a way of making everyone around him feel like they were the most special person in his life. He would always greet and leave you with a rib crushing hug and never said goodbye to anyone without an “I love you.”



## Joe B. Thurston

Joe Thurston was a loving father of two and devoted husband of 11 years. He found joy in all he did. A native of Cedar City, Utah, he was born February 5, 1981 and graduated from Cedar High School in 1999. He will be remembered for his bravery and selflessness.

A fire fighter and EMT since 2008, Joe was enthusiastic about his work and very service oriented. He was energetic, compassionate, determined, loving, funny, hard-working and extremely kind. Joe was wildly fun to be around, always rallying the group to the next adventure. He was the type of guy whose smile filled the room. Dependability and decency radiated from him even at a very young age. A devoted family man, Joe could always be found at the baseball field or on the floor playing with the kids. He was head over heels for Marsena, his high school sweetheart and wife of 11 years. He used every day as a new opportunity to show his love for her. Joe will be missed and will forever be our hero.



## Travis Turbyfill

Travis Turbyfill was born on March 25, 1986 and grew up in beautiful Prescott, Arizona. As a child, he lived in Groom Creek, where his love for the outdoors began. He lived next door to his grandparents and spoke of hunting and fishing with his grandpa on a daily basis from the time he was three years old. Travis was an only child, but began developing friendships at a young age that would last a lifetime.

He graduated from Prescott High School in 2004, and fulfilled a lifelong dream when he began his career as a wildland fire fighter in 2005. Travis served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2010. He then resumed his career as a fire fighter in 2011 with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots, a crew of men who were not just coworkers but friends and brothers.

Travis' first date with Stephanie was July 22, 2007. He told her just days before he died that he fell in love with her on that night. They were married on August 1, 2009, with their best friends and family surrounding them on the red rocks of Sedona, Arizona. “He was the love of my life, my best friend, and my soul mate,” she says. “We loved spending time together, talking, and making each other laugh. We shared a tremendous pride for our two little girls, Brooklyn Elizabeth 2, and Brynley Elizabeth 1. I loved our life together.”

Travis was a hands-on dad. He changed diapers, painted toenails and played with the girls non-stop. He had a heart of gold and wore it on his sleeve. “Not a day went by that we didn't know how much he loved us, cared for us, and appreciated us,” says Stephanie. “He thought he was the luckiest man in the world, but I know we were the lucky ones.”

He was a strong man, a natural leader and a great fire fighter. He loved what he did and did it well.



## William Howard “Billy” Warneke

Born August 13, 1987, in Hemet, California, William Howard “Billy” Warneke was an avid outdoorsman from the very beginning. In fact, he was just six years old when he decided he would one day become a fire fighter. The middle child of five, Billy grew up camping, hunting and fishing with his brothers, Fred and David, and sisters, Melinda and Victoria.

After graduating from Hemet High School in 2005, Billy joined the United States Marine Corps when he was just 17. He deployed twice during his four years as a Marine, including one tour in Iraq. He served with the Second Battalion Fourth Marines, eventually becoming a Scout Sniper. He left the service in October of 2009.

He then began his lifelong dream of becoming a member of the hot shots fire crew. He attended the Fire Science Academy and graduated December 20, 2010, and joined the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in April 2013.

Billy will forever be remembered as a man who always put his needs behind the needs of those around him and lived a life devoted to serving others. When asked to describe Billy, family and friends use words such as selfless, confident, heroic, outgoing and courageous. He was never one to shy away from adventure and could often be found having fun on a shooting range or off-roading in his Jeep in the hills of Arizona.

Billy married his high school sweetheart, Roxanne Lopez, in December 2008 and the two made a life together in Tucson. Their first child will be born in December.

In addition to his wife and his brothers and sisters, Billy is survived by his mother, Kathie Purkey of Homeland, California, his father Harry Warneke of Hemet, California, and his grandparents, Jack and Nancy Warneke of San Jacinto, California.



## Clayton Thomas Whitted

Clayton Thomas Whitted was born June 27, 1985, to Carl and Kathleen Whitted. He was welcomed by his two sisters, Carmen and Cheryl. He was raised in Prescott, Arizona, and from a young age had a strong love for life and the outdoors.

Clayton attended Prescott High School where he played football, basketball and ran track. He loved the friendships that he gained more than the games that they won. Clayton graduated in 2004, and continued his education at Yavapai College and Arizona State University, gaining more knowledge of fire science.

After high school, Clayton pursued his longtime dream of becoming a fire fighter and accepted a position with the Prescott Hotshots. When his mother became ill, Clayton took a full time position with the Heights Church Youth and became the junior high pastor, where he mentored hundreds of young teens. Clayton's mom passed away in December 2007, and the next spring Clayton resumed his career and started with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots.

Clayton's work with the Granite Mountain Hot Shots expanded, as did his responsibility when he became a squad leader. Soon after, he was introduced to Kristi Hoffman, who quickly captured Clayton's attention and his heart. They were married on February 12, 2011.

The more anyone got to know Clayton he became less like a friend and more like a brother. Clayton's heart was so selfless and he was willing to sacrifice for others as he would for his own family.

Clayton spent his life serving in the community and helping numerous organizations and people alike. Clayton's unique personality and contagious smile, paired with his laughter and hugs, were an example to all who met him of what it meant to love fully.

Though Prescott may mourn the loss of Clayton Whitted, though the nation may mourn the loss of a brave fire fighter and though the world may mourn this tragedy, we will chose to celebrate his time on earth.



## Kevin J. Woyjeck

Kevin Woyjeck, 21, died fulfilling a family fire fighter legacy. His father, Joe Woyjeck, was a Fire Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. His two uncles were fire fighters there as well.

Kevin grandmother, Delores Woyjeck, said her grandson wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, first joining the Los Angeles County Fire Department Explorers Club when he was 15. After working for several years as a fire fighter, he joined a hotshot team in South Dakota. From there he joined the Granite Mountain Hot Shots in April. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby stated, "Kevin and I just spoke a few months ago about how excited he was to be a hotshot in Arizona." Kevin joined the Granite Mountain Hot Shots to gain the wildland fire fighting experience he needed for his desired job in the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

He is survived by his parents, a brother 19, and his 16-year-old sister. Maddie says, there are so many things she will miss about her brother.

"I'm going to miss his smile, his laugh, the way he said 'I love you.' He was so outgoing, he could walk into a room and just start a fire inside of somebody," she said.



## Garret Zuppiger

Garret Zuppiger was born December 14, 1985, in Phoenix, Arizona. He graduated Greenway High School and from the University of Arizona with a degree from Eller College of Management in 2008.

As a young boy, he was one of the youngest at that time to receive certification and sail Long Beach harbor in a sabot. He was extremely proud and

excited to be accepted as a member of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots for the 2012 season, having no prior experience or background in fire fighting. During his rookie season as a Hot Shot, he attended wildfire training school and was awarded the fire boots for being first in his class.

During the off months of fire season he was a carpenter by trade, which he loved as well. He loved to run, hike, fish, rock climb, travel, cook and play his guitar for his friends and family. Garret was the most generous, giving, kind and hard working person, using his everlasting abundance of energy to always help others.

He was also an avid reader, a beautiful writer and had a sense of humor like no other. Garret was a free spirit and loved a great adventure. His motto in life was "dream as if you will live forever, live as if you will die tomorrow."



# The Hot Shot's Prayer

When I am called to duty, Lord...  
To fight the roaring blaze...  
Please keep me safe and strong...  
I may be here for days.

Be with my fellow crewmembers...  
As we hike up to the top.  
Help us cut enough line...  
For this blaze to stop.

Let my skills and hands...  
Be firm and quick.  
Let me find those safety zones...  
As we hit and lick.

For if this day on the line...  
I should answer death's call...  
Lord, bless my hot shot Crew...  
My family, one and all.

"If Prometheus was worthy of the wrath of heaven for kindling the first fire upon earth, how ought all the Gods to honor those who make it their professional business to put it out?" — John Godfrey Saxe, circa 1850



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