



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Speaker Naize expresses condolences for the families of the  
19 firefighters who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill wildfire**



**Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize (left) addresses mourners and the families of the 19 firefighters who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill fire at a memorial service held in Prescott, Ariz.**

**PRESCOTT, Ariz.** – On behalf of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) expressed condolences for the community of Prescott and the families of the 19 firefighters who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill wildfire, during a memorial service held in Prescott, on Monday.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you mourn the loss of your husbands, sons, and fathers,” said Speaker Naize. “Their bravery and courage in the line of duty will always remain in our hearts and minds.”

The 19 young men were part of the elite group of firefighters known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots, who were killed battling a wildfire near the town of Yarnell, on Sunday.

“We pray that the site of the fallen firefighters will be a sacred place, and that the rain will come today, tomorrow — to restore the land, and the hearts and minds of all you,” said Speaker Naize to the approximately 1,000 people who attended the service.

Speaker Naize, whose son is currently battling the same fire that took the lives of the 19 firefighters, acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the Navajo Nation's own hotshot firefighters, and thanked dozens of firefighters seated in the audience.

Other dignitaries offered condolences including, Prescott Mayor Marlin Kuykendall, U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar who represents the affected area, U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, U.S. Rep. David Schweikert, U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon, U.S. Rep. Trent Franks, and Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne.

Near the conclusion of the memorial service, members of the Prescott Fire Department and hotshot crews joined together for a moment of silence to honor the fallen firefighters.

On Monday, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer ordered that all state flags be flown at half-staff from sunrise on July 1 through sunset on July 3.

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