

Dear Friend,

I hope you enjoyed this past week as much as I did. I was back home in Arizona while Congress observed a district work week for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. I enjoyed meeting with local groups and organizations in the community and spent time with my family celebrating our nations 238<sup>th</sup> birthday. I even moved my youngest daughter into her college dorm as she begins her first year of school. As any parent will tell you, that is no easy task.

However, despite the patriotic festivities, it was a somber week as our community and all of Arizona looked back in remembrance on one of the worst tragedies to ever hit our state.

### **This Week We Are All Prescott Strong**



(Picture courtesy of kpho.com)

As many of you will remember, on Sunday June 30, 2013, a catastrophic wildfire in Yarnell, Arizona claimed the lives of 19 elite Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters during their efforts to control the blaze.

These were the bravest, toughest firefighters you will ever find. Despite suffocating heat and hauling backbreaking equipment, these men would march right into the heart of wildfires and quickly work to contain these devastating disasters from inflicting their will on our communities.

To this day, words cannot express my sadness and the depth of my condolences to the families of these 19 first responders who gave their lives protecting our community. I will certainly remember this horrible tragedy for the rest of my life as well as the public memorial service which was attended by more than 1,200 members of our community.

These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice fighting to protect our citizens and for that we will be eternally grateful. Even though a year has passed, please continue to keep the families of these firefighters in your prayers.

Below is the list of the names and ages of the 19 firefighters who gave their lives one year ago:

**Andrew Ashcraft, age 29**  
**Robert Caldwell, age 23**  
**Travis Carter, age 31**  
**Dustin Deford, age 24**

**Christopher MacKenzie, age 30**

**Eric Marsh, age 43**

**Grant McKee, age 21**

**Sean Misner, age 26**

**Scott Norris, age 28**

**Wade Parker, age 22**

**John Percin, age 24**

**Anthony Rose, age 23**

**Jesse Steed, age 36**

**Joe Thurston, age 32**

**Travis Turbyfill, age 27**

**William Warneke, age 25**

**Clayton Whitted, age 28**

**Kevin Woyjeck, age 21**

**Garret Zuppiger, age 27**

You can view the speech I gave on the House floor recognizing the lives of these 19 men by clicking the picture below.



(Picture Courtesy of CSPAN.org)

### **The United States Celebrates its 238<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

I hope that everyone in Arizona and throughout our nation enjoyed a festive 4<sup>th</sup> of July with family and friends. I walked in the Prescott Rodeo Days Parade and spent time with my family celebrating our independence. It's important to remember the great gift of freedom and the countless Americans who have sacrificed so much to insure we still enjoy it today. And it is still important to remember as President Ronald Reagan once said:

***“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”***

Additionally, it was an exciting week to be an American as our Men's National Soccer Team proudly competed in the World Cup against some

of the best soccer nations in the world. The team successfully survived the so-called "Group of Death" to advance to the knock-out stage of the tournament. And while the U.S. team was narrowly defeated on Thursday, they proved to the world that Americans never give up and fight till the end.



## **The Supreme Court makes two huge rulings protecting Civil Liberties**

This past Monday the Supreme Court upheld two unalienable principals solidified in our First Amendment that protects the civil liberties of the American people. I am pleased with the Court's rulings and hope that they remind the Obama Administration that certain rights and religious freedoms are guaranteed by the Constitution.

The Harris v. Quinn decision upholds the idea that forcing nonmembers to pay dues to an organization without their consent is not just unconstitutional, but un-American. People should have the right to join or not join any organization they want, and the Supreme Court got it right today in holding that the government can't force home care assistants to pay union dues without their permission.

In the Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. decision, the Court made clear that the Obamacare contraceptive mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and reiterates that the government cannot infringe upon the religious liberties of private citizens. Protecting the practice of religion is the first issue in the first line of our First Amendment. This is a sacred ideal that is built into the DNA of the United States.

Our system of checks and balances triumphed and once again protected Americans from an overreaching federal government.



## **Offering Solutions to FEMA for Immigration Crisis**

This past week I was happy to see that FEMA finally reached out to Congress for suggestions on where to send the tens of thousands of migrants and unaccompanied alien children illegally coming across the border from Central America, through Mexico, and into Texas and Arizona. It is vital for federal agencies to seek advice and solutions from the Representatives of the people.

According to a recent report released by the House Homeland Security Committee, more than 92% of these individuals who have been part of the recent influx at our southern border come from just three countries—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. **Therefore, my top three suggestions for shelter locations are as follows: San Salvador, El Salvador; Guatemala City, Guatemala; and Tegucigalpa, Honduras.**

The only way that we can disincentivize Central American immigrants from illegally entering our country is if we change our policies, tweak our laws, cut the bureaucratic red tape and immediately send them back to their countries of origin. Until then, this self-imposed crisis will continue to worsen. Additionally, sending illegal immigrants home immediately spares them from the inhumane living conditions that currently exist at HHS detention facilities.

FEMA has created an email address to receive suggestions as to where we think these individuals should be sheltered. I encourage everyone reading this to contact FEMA and express their ideas and opinions by emailing **[fema-uac-shelter-tf@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-uac-shelter-tf@fema.dhs.gov)**.

If you agree with me, tell them so.

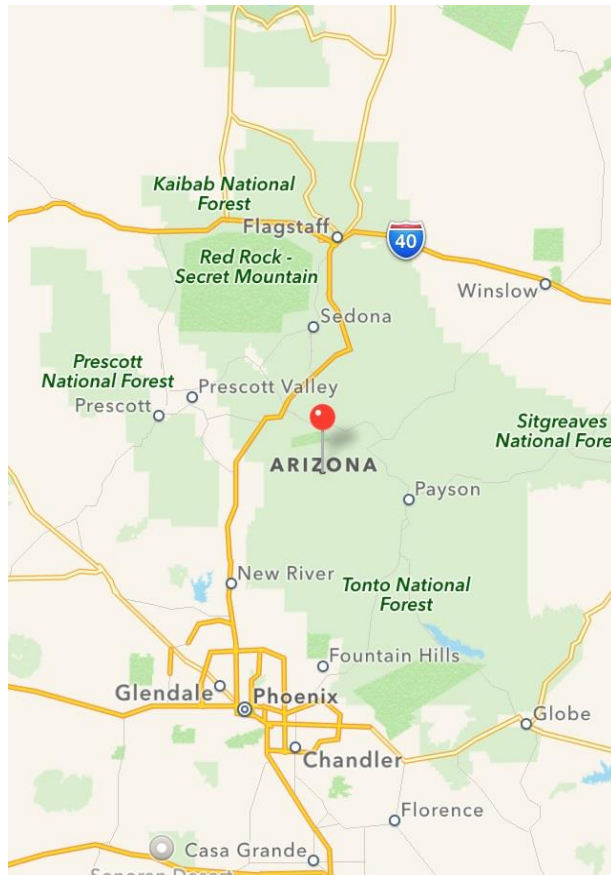
The complete text of my letter to FEMA can be found [HERE](#).

## **Waste Fact of the Week**

[The VA](#) gave \$108.7 [million](#) in bonuses to executives and employees as vets awaited care during the past three years.

## **Congressional District 4: Did You Know?**

The geographic center of Arizona is 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Prescott.



(picture courtesy of google maps)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

WHEN: July 23 - July 27 2014  
EVENT: 5th Annual Prescott Film Festival  
TIME: More information at [www.prescottfilmfestival.com](http://www.prescottfilmfestival.com)  
LOCATION: Yavapai College Performing Arts Center  
1100 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott, AZ

WHEN: September 20, 2014  
EVENT: Parker Fire Department Annual BBQ  
TIME: 5:30 PM  
LOCATION: Parker Fire Station  
1101 W. Arizona Ave, Parker, AZ

As always, you can follow everything I am working on in Arizona and Washington, D.C. through my website (<http://gosar.house.gov>) on Twitter [@repgosar](https://twitter.com/repgosar), or through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RepGosar) at Representative Paul Gosar.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress