

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Today We Honor Tim Hart. Support His Legacy with Action.

United States – Tim Hart was a quiet and humble professional: a husband, a smokejumper, a hotshot, a forester and a musician, a prankster and a leader. Today, June 2nd, we stand together as a firefighting community to honor Tim Hart for his service and his sacrifice. Tim left us a year ago today, his wife Michelle by his side, the lyrics to their wedding song playing in the El Paso hospital room. The last verse carries special meaning. *Should this journey be ending, time carry you away / I'll put on a brave face, get out and start again* ("Lovin' You," by Railroad Earth). At 6:49 PM, Tim passed peacefully, succumbing to injuries sustained from an accident that occurred while parachuting into rugged terrain to suppress the Eicks Fire in New Mexico.

Tim embodied the spirit of all that we as wildland firefighters stand for and aspire to be. He was honest and hard-working, with a rebellious smokejumper spirit, guided by his moral compass to fearlessly do what was right. Not one to sit idle, he was quick to bring others together on a project, leading by example and with well-timed one-liners. He embraced the mystery of life's journey, making even seemingly mundane moments more interesting and beautiful for everyone around him; he even found the energy at the end of every day of smokejumper rookie training to bake homemade bread for his fellow rookies. Innovative and resourceful, he welded together a copper still to make his infamous Rye Whiskey (location undisclosed). Another time, he created an elaborate ice cream "machine" from an old bike, a fan, and supplies scavenged from a fire station, providing a sweet reprieve from the New Mexico heat for his fellow firefighters. With a Master's in Forestry, Tim consistently sought to understand the harsh beauty of the natural world, finding solace and connection on the shores of the South Fork of the Shoshone River. A teacher and mentor, a talented musician on banjo, drums, and bass, he even did a stint in a heavy metal band, information he did not disclose to his wife until they'd been dating for two years. Tim was your quintessential federal wildland firefighter: multi-talented, highly skilled – a can-do professional who, with all the job options available, chose to serve his country as a federal wildland firefighter.

Above all, Tim was courageous. So today, in memory of Tim Hart, we ask all of you to find the courage to stand up to support [Tim's Act](#), to carry the federal wildland firefighting community forward, providing firefighters with pay equity, increased retirement benefits, expanded mental health programs, affordable housing support, and other critical reforms. We do this for Tim and for all the fallen wildland firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to protect our communities.



"Nothing About Us, Without Us"

[Tim's Act](#) (H.R. 5631) was introduced before congress in October 2021, and the bill has yet to make it through committee. [Make legislators aware of Tim's Act](#) to help move this vital piece of legislation forward.

Without reforms to protect our federal firefighters – changes only made possible by Tim's Act – our highly skilled federal wildland fire workforce will continue to be degraded toward the point of extinction, at a time when we need them more than ever. Catastrophic wildfires are wiping communities throughout the country off the map, often in a matter of minutes. Wildland firefighters show up when they're called to duty, no matter the circumstances; now the time has come for lawmakers and Americans to show up for firefighters.

To Michelle Hart: Your strength, courage, and compassion inspire us all to action on behalf of Tim's Act. Grassroots Wildland Firefighters and the entire firefighting community supports you with all of our hearts. We stand with you. We urge all wildland firefighters and Americans to come together in supporting Tim's Act. Its provisions are the only long-term solution to turn the tides on the wildfire crisis the United States is facing.

As the sun lifts itself again over a distant and nameless ridge to the east, light dances its way with methodical and timeless steps across the valley, to blanket your home waters of the South Fork of the Shoshone River. Tim, you are light. You are hope. Today we honor our brother, Tim Hart, with courage and action.

Please join us in [reaching out to lawmakers](#). We appreciate your continued support.

View the Partners Survey Video, "The Other Half of the Story," [HERE](#).

Read Tim's Act bill text [HERE](#).

View Tim's Act fact sheet [HERE](#).

For more information please visit our website at www.GrassrootsWildlandFirefighters.com



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