

Dude Fire Memorial Rededication

August 17th, 2024 @10:00am

Bonita Creek, AZ

The community members of Bonita Creek are pleased to announce the “Dude Fire Memorial Restoration” is nearing completion and on schedule for the Rededication ceremony August 17th 2024.

This Memorial Restoration was originally a Bonita Creek Land and Homeowners Association community volunteer project. Although many attempts to improve the site were made over the years, the restoration was never completed, however, the importance of the Memorial and Honoring the six Perryville firefighters that gave their lives trying to save our community was never forgotten.

As the **caretakers** of this Memorial, the Bonita Creek community volunteers worked over several weekends along with help from the Payson Ranger District Firefighters, Water Wheel Fire District and several members outside the community. We also received a tremendous amount of support from Jimmy Sumpter site landowner, Bobbie Scopa, Dude Fire strike Team Leader and Public Speaker, Scott Briggs, film maker, and the Wildland Firefighters Foundation.

The Wildland Firefighter Foundation, along with local Payson businesses including Payson Concrete, R&K Home Center and Home Depot made this project possible with their generous donations and contributions.

As you are all aware, on the fateful day June 26th, 1990 six firefighters gave their lives paying the ultimate price in an effort to save our community. The Dude Fire Memorial was constructed as a tribute to those fallen firefighters. The Dude fire incident is still being used today as a training film for all new firefighters. Wildland and other firefighters are still brought to our community for “Lessons learned” Staff rides and on-site training.

“We consider ourselves blessed to live in such a beautiful place as Bonita Creek, but the scars and memories of the Dude Fire still surround us. Seeing this Memorial Restoration to completion has brought our community together, and the outpouring of support to honor the Perryville firefighters and their families, has touched our hearts”.

Mike & Renee Lynch