

Under the current Head Coaches, Clint Birch and Adam Wight, who took over in 2006, the Vacaville Bulldogs have procured 9 League Team Championships, 97 Individual League Champions, 9 Divisional Section Championships, 46 Individual Divisional Section Champions, 7 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 7 Sac Joaquin Team Section Masters Championships, 20 Individual Maters Champions, 6 CIF State Champions, 25 CIF State Place Winners, and 7 CIF Team Place State Winner, of which all were in the top 10.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the impressive achievement of this fine school. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vacaville High School's Wrestling Program.

HONORING RSVP VOLUNTEERS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today in the City of West, Texas, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, better known as RSVP, is being honored for their service. I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for all help they have provided to our community.

RSVP has a rich history of giving back. As volunteers, their service adds to the well being and preserves the health of our community.

In the wake of the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in West, RSVP came to the aid of a community in need. Following the explosion, volunteers with the organization staffed the call center, food distribution headquarters, and the donations management center. Their leadership, experience, and support aided in providing relief to those affected and were a tremendous help throughout the recovery process of this disaster.

We are truly thankful that RSVP was able to organize and assist in such a quick and efficient manner, and we know that those affected by the explosion truly appreciate their efforts as well.

RSVP Volunteers do their part to add value to the world and work to leave it a better place. During a time in which our country faces tough challenges, it is encouraging to see that we still have strong groups like RSVP who work together to solve problems, and to pitch in to strengthen our communities and improve others' lives.

I am appreciative of the work that RSVP volunteers do and commend them for all of their hard work for our community.

God bless the continuing work of RSVP and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING ROBERT HARBULA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who is truly an American hero.

Mr. Robert Harbula of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, fought bravely as a U.S. Marine in the Korean War—including the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Private First Class Harbula served

in G Company of the Third Battalion of the First Marine Regiment, part of the First Marine Division, in the Korean War. His unit was referred to initially as "George Company" and then, later, after Chosin Reservoir, as "Bloody George."

Private First Class Bob Harbula was assigned to the Marine unit guarding Camp David, the Presidential retreat, when he served as an usher for the Washington, DC, premiere of "Sands of Iwo Jima" in January of 1950. After seeing the movie, he decided that he ought to get a more dangerous posting, so he volunteered for a marine raider unit several months later. Soon thereafter, he ended up in Camp Pendleton as part of the 1st Marine Division—and in August 1950, he found himself on a troopship headed for Japan with the First Marines as one of the early reinforcements for the hard-pressed UN forces in Korea. Mr. Harbula was part of the machine gun squad attached to G Company's First Platoon.

Korea had been occupied for 35 years by Japan until the end of World War II, at which point it was partitioned at the 38th Parallel. South Korea was occupied and protected by US forces. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet Union. UN plans to hold elections and unify the country were rejected by the Soviets, and a communist dictatorship was established in the north.

On June 25, North Korean troops crossed the boundary separating North and South Korea, taking the ill-prepared South Korean Army by surprise and overwhelming it. Three days later, the North Korean army occupied Seoul, the South Korean capital. US troops from the Eighth Army based in Japan rushed to aid the South Koreans. They were thrown into battle piecemeal in a desperate effort to gain time for more reinforcements to arrive. South Korean troops and the US 24th Infantry Division fought the North Korean troops repeatedly, inflicting substantial casualties, but they were repeatedly defeated by superior numbers and forced to retreat. By August, US and South Korean forces had been pushed back to a fragile perimeter around the port city of Pusan in the southwest corner of the Korean peninsula. Despite repeated North Korean attacks, the Pusan Perimeter held and bled the North Koreans dry.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of US forces in the region, decided to launch a major amphibious landing deep in the North Korean army's rear at the port city of Inchon on Korea's west coast. Mr. Harbula's unit was in the first wave of the assault craft, which landed under heavy fire on September 15th. From that moment on, George Company was in nearly constant combat as US forces captured Inchon and fought their way into Seoul, where the fighting often deteriorated into vicious house-to-house combat. On the night of September 25, George Company—heavily outnumbered—stopped a major North Korean counterattack by tanks, self-propelled artillery, and hundreds of men along Seoul's Ma Po Boulevard. Mr. Harbula and his section did what they could, firing a machine gun non-stop at the lead tank. With artillery support, George Company withstood and repelled the attack—but at a terrible cost.

The Inchon landing and the liberation of Seoul caused the weakened and over-extended North Korean forces in the south to collapse and beat a panicked retreat northward. The US Eighth Army began pressing

northward in aggressive pursuit along Korea's west coast. The X Corps, which included the 1st Marine Division, was pulled out of the line and loaded onto amphibious transport ships. They sailed around the Korean Peninsula and disembarked at the end of October in the port of Wonsan on North Korea's southeastern coast, which had already been secured by South Korean units.

George Company's first assignment after landing at Wonsan was holding a village called Majon-ni several miles inland at the junction of roads leading to Seoul, Wonsan, and Pyongyang. On November 2nd, PFC Harbula's machine gun squad was helping to escort a re-supply convoy through a treacherous mountain gorge when it was ambushed. Bob Harbula provided cover, firing a .30 caliber machine gun from the hip, while the surviving trucks were carefully turned around on the one-lane, cliff-edged road and driven out of the ambush to Wonsan, where they reported to headquarters and requested a rescue mission for the remaining survivors.

George Company garrisoned Majon-ni for several weeks after the ambush. PFC Harbula took command of his 10-man machine gun squad after the sergeant who had been in charge was seriously wounded in the ambush. On November 14, George Company moved north to the Hungnam-Chigyong region.

The rugged Taebaek Mountains that ran up the middle of the Korean peninsula divided the Eighth Army from X Corps as each force pushed north. On November 24, MacArthur ordered the "Home by Christmas" offensive to conquer all of North Korea up to the Yalu River, which formed the boundary between North Korea and China. The Eighth Army was to push north, while the First Marine Division was to push west from the Chosin Reservoir, cut off a North Korean major supply line, and link up with the Eighth Army.

Unbeknownst to General MacArthur and his advisors, hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops had begun infiltrating into North Korea in mid-October. The General and his staff thought that there were only a few small Chinese units fighting in North Korea. In fact, Chinese troops were massing for attacks in both the east and west. In the east, the 9th Army Group of the Chinese "People's Volunteer Army" had encircled most of the Chosin Reservoir, a large man-made lake north of Wonsan and 65 miles northwest of the port city of Hungnam.

On November 25, nearly two hundred thousand Chinese troops launched a surprise attack on the Eighth Army, defeating it resoundingly in the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River and sending it retreating southward in what came to be called "the Big Bug-out."

On November 27, however, the First Marine Division's orders were still to attack northwestward. Most of the Division's combat troops, primarily thousands of Marines from the First Marine Division's 5th and 7th Regiments, were positioned around the village of Yudam-ni west of the reservoir. An under-strength regimental combat team from the 7th Infantry Division held territory on the east side of the reservoir up through the village of Hundong-ni to Sinhung-ni. A winding narrow road led through the mountainous terrain from each village to the bottom of the lake, where they met in the village of Hagaru-ri, which was lightly defended by a hodgepodge of units from the First Marine Division, including a

number of companies from George Company's First Marine Regiment. Essential supplies had been stockpiled at Hagaru-ri, and engineers were desperately trying to build a small airstrip when they weren't fighting off enemy attacks.

It was 14 miles of treacherous terrain from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ni. From there, the road wound 11 miles through more mountainous terrain to the town of Koto-ri, where the 1st Marine Regiment's headquarters was located—defended by the Regiment's Second Battalion—and then another 10 miles to Chinhung-ni, defended by First Battalion, First Marine Regiment. From there, it was another 37 miles to the port city of Hungnam. That one narrow road was the only way First Marine Division and the other units from X Corps could get out of the mountains and back to the coast.

Meanwhile, George Company was stuck somewhere in the rear echelons for lack of transportation.

On the night of November 27, all hell broke loose. The 9th Army Group of the People's Volunteer Army attacked the X Corps forces on either side of the Chosin Reservoir and at various points along the road as far south as Koto-ri. Tens of thousands of Chinese soldiers attacked the Marines. The Marines at Yudam-ni were surrounded and cut off, as were the soldiers of the 7th Infantry's Regimental Combat Team 31 on the east side of the reservoir—and the Divisional headquarters and elements of the 1st Marine Regiment at Hagaru-ri.

On the morning of November 28, George Company finally got some wheels. They were ordered into trucks and headed north, arriving in Koto-ri at nightfall.

That night, the Chinese launched a massive attack on Hagaru-ri. They almost succeeded in overwhelming the outnumbered Marines, who had thrown every able-bodied man who could fire a rifle into the front line—down to, and including, the cooks and truck drivers. When dawn came, the defenses had held, but Chinese forces occupied the strategic high ground—East Hill—and unless reinforcements arrived, it seemed inevitable that Hagaru-ri would fall and the units around the Chosin Reservoir would be doomed.

George Company's 200 men formed part of the 900-man "Task Force Drysdale" that was rapidly thrown together on the morning of November 29th in Koto-ri to reinforce Hagaru-ri. It took the column all day to fight their way up the 11 miles of road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri. They had to stop repeatedly to clear enemy roadblocks, and they were under fire the whole time from thousands of Chinese soldiers dug in on either side of the road. The route was subsequently given the name "Hell Fire Valley."

Late in the day, the rear of the convoy was stopped by a burning truck and surrounded by Chinese troops. Fighting through the night until their ammunition was nearly all gone, the surviving soldiers finally had no choice but to surrender.

The front of the column, consisting of the surviving tanks, George Company, and some of the Royal Marines pushed on and finally broke through to Hagaru-ri. Only a third of the men who set out that morning in Task Force Drysdale made it to Hagaru-ri, but the 300 soldiers and the tanks that made it through Hell Fire Valley at such a terrible cost significantly bolstered the town's defenses.

The next morning, November 30, George Company was given the daunting mission of retaking East Hill. They slowly advanced up the hill, slipping and falling repeatedly on the ice and taking heavy rifle and machine gun fire. By the end of the day, they held the south end of the ridge, but the Chinese still held the center. George Company dug in as best they could, but the temperature at night dropped past -20 degrees and the ground was frozen hard. Private Harbula was forced to resort to piling dead Chinese soldiers around his machine gun like sand bags.

Once it was dark, Chinese forces counter-attacked, charging down the hill several thousand strong. The men of George Company fought bravely—eventually hand-to-hand. Private Harbula's machine gun jammed, and his position was overrun by the enemy. An officer ordered the men to pull back. He remembers hitting one Chinese soldier in the face with his helmet and firing his pistol at several others. As he slipped and slid back down the hill, he fell into a shell crater. In the crater, he found several dead Americans and one of his comrades, Richard Haller, still alive but wounded in both legs. Private Harbula carried Haller down the hill to safety, but he ruptured his Achilles tendon in the process. Private Harbula was out of the fight, but the surviving members of George Company fought on. Finally, near dawn on December 1st, the Chinese attack petered out.

December 1st was something of a turning point. That day, the Marines in Yudam-ni began a break-out to the south. By nightfall, they had fought their way to Toktong Pass, halfway to Hagaru-ri. In addition, the engineers who had been working on the airstrip completed enough of the runway that C-47 transport planes could use it. That afternoon, planes started bringing in supplies and reinforcements and flying out the wounded.

There was bad news on December 1st as well. With half of the men in Regimental Combat Team 31 dead or wounded, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Don Faith, ordered his troops to destroy any equipment they couldn't carry and attempt to break through to Hagaru-ri. As the column advanced, it was attacked constantly by thousands of Chinese soldiers on each side of the road to Hagaru-ri. As night fell, Lieutenant Faith was killed trying to take a roadblock and the column disintegrated. Many small groups of soldiers fled through the night and made it to the Hagaru-ri perimeter alive, but everyone who stayed with the convoy was killed.

Most of the First Division was now reunited in Hagaru-ri. The remaining able-bodied but exhausted members of George Company continued to defend the perimeter, moving to one end of the runway on December 5th and repulsing another large Chinese attack.

On December 6, the First Marine Division began its breakout effort—or as its commanding officer General O.P. Smith put it, not so much retreating as attacking in a different direction. George Company fought its way back down Hell Fire Valley—but this time as part of a unit powerful enough to defend itself. They reached Koto-ri by the end of the next day. The retreat continued the following day with the 5th and 7th Regiments pushing ahead and the 1st Regiment and George Company acting as a rear guard. Finally, reached the port of Hungnam, where an armada of ships evacuated a quarter of a million soldiers and civilians, as well as a great deal of equipment.

The "advance in a different direction" by the "Chosin Few" has become a legendary example of heroism, sacrifice, endurance, and suffering. Thousands of American soldiers rebuffed surprise attacks by overwhelming numbers of enemy forces and then conducted a 70-mile fighting retreat through treacherous mountain terrain in subfreezing weather.

George Company, now "Bloody George," did their part, fighting their way into Hagaru-ri, up East Hill, and then—outnumbered 10 to 1—holding their perimeter against determined enemy counterattack. Private First Class Bob Harbula served bravely in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir until he was injured.

Remarkably, several months later, Bob's brother, John, who was a Marine stationed in Norfolk, saw a Marine on crutches hitchhiking. John picked him up and they got to talking, and the Marine mentioned that he was at the Chosin Reservoir with G-3-1. John told his passenger that he had a brother who had also fought there with G-3-1. The hitchhiker asked John what his brother's name was, and when John told him that it was Bob Harbula, the Marine's face turned white and he said, "that's the SOB that saved my life!" John had given a lift to Richard Haller!

Chosin Reservoir didn't mark the end of Bloody George's or Bob Harbula's combat action in Korea by any means. Soon after, he was back in combat. On April 15, 1951, he was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of 2 machineguns and 20 men at the start of Operation Ripper. He fought again with G Company in North Korea at the Hwachon Reservoir, where the First Marine Division was awarded its third Presidential Unit Citation for action on Hill 902. He was finally rotated home on 6 June 1951.

Mr. Harbula was recently quoted in the *McKeesport Daily News* as saying, "I don't consider myself a hero." Well, I think it's safe to say that the rest of us do. I am grateful to U.S. Marine Corporal Robert Harbula for his heroic service to our country, and I am very proud to represent him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Harbula may not consider himself a hero, but he believes deeply that his comrades in George Company, especially those who gave their lives for this country, are heroes who never got the recognition they deserved. He has endeavored in recent years to educate the American public about the critical role George Company played in reinforcing and defending Hagaru-ri and holding it until the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments could reach it and the First Marine Division could carry out its legendary fighting withdrawal.

That may finally be happening some 60-some years after the fact. In 2010, a writer named Patrick K. O'Donnell published "Give Me Tomorrow: The Korean War's Greatest Untold Story—the Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company." The book is based on extensive interviews with the surviving members of G Company. In addition, earlier this week, the story of George Company's actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was the subject of an episode of "Against All Odds"—a six-part series about battlefield heroism on the American Heroes Channel—which until recently was known as the Military Channel.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans can be proud of the fact that in the course of our nation's history, there have been many inspiring, often heartbreaking stories of heroes who have

given their lives for this country. There are many, many more Americans who have served this country who have risked their lives for this country. Many have come home wounded and disabled. We owe them all a debt we can never begin to repay. It's my belief, though, that we should remember them and honor them as best we can for what they've done. That's why, when I learned about Bob Harbula and George Company's service in the Korean War, I felt it was only right that I share their story with you and have it included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Harbula has spent much of his life trying to call attention to his brothers in arms—the Chosin Few—so I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the bravery and tremendous sacrifices of Bob Harbula and the men of Company G, Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment for their heroic service in the Korean War. God bless them, and God bless everyone who serves or has served our nation in its armed forces.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICE
SPECIALIST DEBBIE D. WOLD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Office Specialist Debbie D. Wold who is retiring after nearly 25 years of service to the City of Fairfield.

Debbie was hired on August 21, 1989, as a Public Service Clerk for the Investigations Bureau. In 1992, she was reclassified to Transcriber and received a Department Commendation for her outstanding ability to completely and accurately transcribe complex police reports and interrogations in 1996.

On November 19, 1999, Debbie was promoted to Office Specialist and has provided superior administrative support to the Investigations Bureau, Training Unit, and Support Services Division over the years. Debbie received numerous commendations from co-workers and citizens for her teamwork, customer service and friendly demeanor. Debbie was also selected as the Police Department's

Employee of the Quarter for July-September, 2011, and the Police Department's Employee of the Year in 1996 and 2011. Debbie is known to be reliable, detailed-orientated, and provides high quality of work.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the City of Fairfield and its constituents was evident on a daily basis. She is admired for her hard work, dedication, and selfless contributions.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the community was second to none. Debbie was a loyal representative of the City of Fairfield and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Golden Anniversary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. In 1901, during the midst of the Alaska Gold Rush, the first pioneers settled on the banks of the Chena River on the land that would become the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The discovery of gold created a population boom in the region, and the town of Fairbanks was established. In 1963, the Alaska Legislature passed the Mandatory Borough Act requiring that the most populated areas in the state join together to form organized borough governments. Fairbanks students won a competition to name the borough the North Star Borough, and in 1966, the name was officially changed to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Over the last 50 years, the Borough has grown tremendously to become the second largest community in Alaska with a population of over 100,000 residents, and is commonly referred to as the "Golden Heart of Alaska." The Fairbanks North Star Borough has managed a unique juxtaposition by retaining the small-town pioneer quality that existed in the early 1900s, yet thriving with a modern and youthful spirit stemming from the economic opportuni-

ties in the area, as well as being the home of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

After the gold rush, the next economic boom in the region was the discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope. Fairbanks North Star Borough was the closest large town to the project, and as a result, construction on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline began in 1974. The pipeline was completed in 1977, traveling over frozen tundra, the boreal forest, 800 rivers and streams, three major earthquake faults, and three rugged mountain ranges. The exploding construction of the 800-mile pipeline brought more than 30,000 job opportunities to Fairbanks over the years.

Today, the Borough is home to many Alaskans, Military Servicemen and women stationed at Ft. Wainwright Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, enrolling 10,800 students annually. Ft. Wainwright and Eielson AFB's strategic locations and Fairbanks' uniquely harsh climate prepare units to deploy anywhere in the world for contingencies ranging from humanitarian relief to combat operations. Eielson AFB remains a strategic location for refueling and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

On behalf of the State of Alaska, Fairbanks North Star Borough has hosted many international sporting events such as the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, Junior Olympics, and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Fairbanks is also home to the Yukon Quest, an international 1,000 mile sled dog that is considered one of the toughest in the world.

Fairbanks North Star Borough has and will continue to provide important energy and mineral resources, defense tools, and education for Alaskans. The borough encourages vibrant, engaged citizens, and continues to provide for residents and businesses not only in the State of Alaska, but in the entire United States of America. I know that Fairbanks North Star Borough will continue to serve as a wonderful example for towns across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Fairbanks North Star Borough on its Golden Anniversary.