

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL KEVIN S. COCHIE

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2014*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lieutenant Colonel Kevin S. Cochie, a true gentleman, a Soldier's Soldier, and friend. Lieutenant Colonel Cochie retires from the US Army on June 31st after serving the US Army in uniform for over 20 years. A veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, he faithfully served the Special Operations community and the Secretary of the Army with distinction.

Kevin served as a Special Operations helicopter pilot in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the Night Stalkers. His operational experience served as the catalyst for a successful acquisition career. Because of his efforts, highly advanced and specially modified helicopters were made even better, resulting in life saving survivability improvements and mission essential improvements that directly contributed to the removal of multiple high value enemy targets from the battlefield.

LTC Cochie's career culminated with an assignment serving the Secretary of the Army as a Legislative Liaison, advocating for Army Aviation. He quickly rose to the status of "Master Jedi Knight" among all Defense Department legislative liaisons. His ability to socialize to Congress program details and urgent requirements was nothing short of impressive. For years to come, Kevin's example of how to engage Congress will serve as a benchmark for other legislative liaisons to follow.

In conclusion, God bless Kevin, his wife Sara, and daughter Madison for their service to the Army, the Defense Department, and our great Nation.

HONORING ROBERT HARBULA

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 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 First Marine Division—and in August 1950, he found him-

self 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 25th, 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 relentlessly, 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 25th, 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 First 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 treach-

erous 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 14th, George Company moved north to the Hungnam-Chigiyong region. That same day, a cold front moved into the region from Siberia, sending temperatures as low as -35 degrees each night. Such brutal weather would continue for the next two weeks, making weapons and equipment inoperable and causing thousands of injuries and deaths from frostbite and exposure over the course of the battle.

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 24th, 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 25th, nearly two hundred thousand Chinese troops launched a surprise attack on the Eighth Army, defeating it resoundingly in the Battle of the Ch'ongchion River and sending it retreating southward in what came to be called "the Big Bug-out."

On November 27th, 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 understrength regimental combat team from the 7th Infantry Division held territory on the east side of the reservoir up through the village of Hudong-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. To the east of the reservoir, it was a similar distance from Sinhung-

ni to Hagaru-ri. 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 Chihung-ri, 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 27th, 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 outnumbered Americans' positions. The Marines at Yudam-ri 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 28th, 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 30th, 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 that night dropped below -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-ri 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, however. With half of the men in Regimental Combat Team 31 dead or wounded, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Don Carlos 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 Colonel 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 6th, 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, they 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 suf-

fering. 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 15th, 1951, he was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of 2 machine guns 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 June 6, 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 for 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-odd 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.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as I have said since the law was passed, parts of the Affordable Care Act need to be improved or fixed. The employer mandate is no exception. For example employers in many sectors, from farmers to municipalities, face unacceptable uncertainty surrounding the definition of seasonal and part time workers. The federal government needs to provide clear guidance to these employers. As some Senators have proposed, I also support giving businesses with between 50 and 100 full time employees the option to either provide employer sponsored insurance or have their employees buy plans on the individual exchange. Instead of focusing on reasonable reforms like these, Republican House leadership today brought up H.R. 2575, a bill that the President has already promised to veto.

H.R. 2575 would not provide any more certainty to employers with seasonal workers. It would not give businesses with between 50 and 100 full time employees any more flexibility with regard to how their employees get insurance. What it would do, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is increase the deficit by \$73 billion. It would also increase the number of uninsured Americans. For these reasons, I voted against the bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass real fixes to the ACA that will make the law work better for consumers and employers alike.

YETI CYCLES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yeti Cycles for being honored with the Innovative Technology Award given by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Innovative Technology Award is given to a Jefferson County company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies.

Yeti Cycles, headquartered in Golden Colorado, is a leading mountain bike manufacturer with decades of experience in product development. The company created many patented technologies and consistently pushes development to the next level.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yeti Cycles for receiving this prestigious award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your innovation, high standards and quality products.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS W.O. LAWTON BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER AND HONOREES

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's National Association of Workforce Boards W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award winner and honorees.

The 2014 winner, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, and honorees ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Qualcomm deserve recognition for their commitment of time, resources, and leadership to better their communities' workforce and economy.

NAWB established the W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award to annually honor forward-looking businesses and public partners, such as economic development organizations, education providers, and community and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when businesses and organizations across the country are still coping with an extraordinarily slow economic recovery, these groups should be commended for taking the initiative to train today's workers for the jobs of the future. Their efforts to establish partnerships between workforce boards, community colleges, businesses, and other area economic and workforce development leaders has garnered real results for their communities.

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, and Qualcomm have implemented policies similar to those promoted by policymakers in the House and Senate to support a highly-trained workforce and stronger economy. As Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I recognize the critical need to improve our nation's workforce development system, and appreciate the important role these organizations play in helping achieve this shared goal.

Once again, I congratulate these organizations and salute their diligent work to improve their communities and local economies.

OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL GUARD SPENDING CUTS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the following in individuals indicated that they do not support the Pentagon making cuts to the National Guard to reduce spending:

DOUG BETTS—ALBION, IA

I am not in favor of cutting funding for our military at all. I believe we should keep a strong defense, but also keep that defense close to home and only on foreign soils when needed to protect US citizens and strategic interests. Specifically, I'm not in favor of deploying large numbers of our Iowa Guard troops overseas, as then they are not here to help in case of an emergency like a natural disaster.

If defense must be cut, down-sizing bases in foreign countries and other foreign aid should be the first consideration.

KEN WILLOUGHBY—MELCHER DALLAS, IA

No way! With climatic events etc., etc. it's the last place they should cut. There are dozens of areas to make cuts other than the guard.

After using the guard for overseas wartime service then making cuts after all they've sacrificed is ridiculous!!

JOHN IRWIN—GRINNELL, IA

I don't think we should cut any defense spending other than the gift industries charge for items purchased by the govt.

FRANKLIN CURTIS—IOWA FALLS, IA

The guard is needed as a backup to local emergency and national disaster assistance to law enforcement and first responders. Reduction in some active duty and equipment storage of un-needed aircraft is a better plan.

BETTY REYNOLDS—LE GRAND, IA

This country has been depending on the National Guard to fight in the war. My son has been over twice. Some families may depend on the extra income from the Guard also. Thank you for sticking up for them.

DEBRA DOWNS—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

Cut the waste—not the people.

SANDRA PATTERSON—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

How about cutting government corruption instead?

ROGER LAKEY—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

States needs the Guard for natural disasters and state functions. Like the floods of 2008 in Iowa; who would be called up for duty if we were to cut the Guard? Iowa has no active duty base or fort in the state so the Guard is our only state military asset.

PEDRO AQUERO—MARSHALLTOWN, IA

We need the troops to keep our DEMOCRACY safe. If you need more comments and exact comments I can explain.

STEVEN AIKIN—RHODES, IA

I was in the Guard and Guard units are essential in deployments.

DIANNA BUTCHER—STATE CENTER, IA

I do believe it is wrong to cut funding for the National Guard. I would rather see our troops brought home and the money used to keep our national borders secured. We need the young men and women to assist in times of disaster within our own State... Maybe it is time that monetary support for the Iowa National Guard comes from the Iowa state budget to keep them available. In any event we need to maintain our National defenses, not lessen them.