

MEMORANDUM
Office of
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Placer

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5

DATE: December 11, 2012

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION – Approve and present Commendations to three Dutch Flat Volunteer Firefighters, Charlie Bridges, Robert “Bob” Joslin, and Keith Petersen for over 111 collective years of volunteer service to their community and the Dutch Flat Fire Department.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve and present Commendations to three Dutch Flat Volunteer Firefighters, Charlie Bridges, Robert “Bob” Joslin, and Keith Petersen for over 111 collective years of volunteer service to their community and the Dutch Flat Fire Department.

BACKGROUND

Dutch Flat is located in the northeastern part of Placer County upon the ridge, once known as Dutch Flat Divide that separates the Bear and North Fork of the American rivers. It was founded in the spring of 1861 by two German brothers, Joseph and Charles Dornbach and rumored to get its name from the muleskinners that referred to the Dornbach camp as, “Dutch Charlie’s Flat”. Unlike its surrounding communities, Dutch Flat has never burned and still has many of the original buildings dating back to the 1800’s.

The community of Dutch Flat would not feel as safe as it does if it were not for the volunteer services of these three selfless firefighters. Placer County and Dutch Flat has slept easier knowing they are protecting them.

Charlie Bridges has over 45 years of continuous volunteer service. Charlie has served as the Captain of the Dutch Flat Fire Department for the last 20 years.

Robert “Bob” Joslin has over 41 years of continuous volunteer service. Robert “Bob” is a certified EMT and has an associate of Science Degree in Fire Science and has been a self-employed Geotechnical Engineer for over 30 years in Placer County.

Keith Petersen has over 25 years of continuous volunteer service. Keith is a certified EMT and works for the California Highway Patrol in their maintenance division.

The number of active volunteers has fluctuated through the years at Dutch Flat but Keith and his two close friends, Charlie Bridges and Robert Joslin, fondly referred to as the “Three Amigos” have kept operations running steady.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

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**DECEMBER 11, 2012 IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION
THANKING CHARLIE BRIDGES FOR OVER 45 YEARS OF
CONTINUOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER AND
EMERGENCY RESPONDER TO THE COMMUNITY AND
SURROUNDING AREAS OF DUTCH FLAT.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the many years of dedicated service provided by Charlie Bridges as a volunteer Firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Bridges and his two sisters were raised in Dutch Flat by their parents Charles and Elenor Bridges; and

WHEREAS, Charlie joined the Dutch Flat Fire Department in 1967 as a volunteer. His wife Dorothy also joined the fire department and together they became a mainstay for the community, always dependable and willing to respond; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers at the Dutch Flat Fire Department respond to an estimated 250 calls per year encompassing all types of emergencies in the Dutch Flat and surrounding communities including traffic accidents on Interstate 80; and

WHEREAS, the number of active volunteers has fluctuated through the years at Dutch Flat but Charlie and his two close friends, Robert Joslin and Keith Petersen, fondly referred to as the "Three Amigos" have kept operations running steady; and

WHEREAS, serving the Dutch Flat community is a family affair for Charlie. In addition to his wife's participation, his mother started the Ladies Auxiliary in Dutch Flat that continues to focus on fundraising for the fire department to assist with purchasing equipment and supplies needed for the fire fighters; and

WHEREAS, Dutch Flat is located in the northeastern part of Placer County upon the ridge, once known as Dutch Flat Divide, that separates the Bear and North Fork of the American rivers. It was founded in the spring of 1861 by two German brothers, Joseph and Charles Dornbach and rumored to get its name from the muleskinners that referred to the Dornback camp as, "Dutch Charlie's Flat"; and

WHEREAS, unlike its surrounding communities, Dutch Flat has never burned and still has many of the original buildings dating back to the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, Charlie and his years of selfless service to Dutch Flat has helped to preserve the heritage of the community; and

WHEREAS, Charlie has served as Captain for the Dutch Flat Fire Department for the last 20 years of his service.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Charlie Bridges for over 45 years of service as a Firefighter protecting the Dutch Flat community and surrounding areas.

Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5,
Chairwoman 2012

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4

**DECEMBER 11, 2012 IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION
THANKING ROBERT "BOB" JOSLIN FOR OVER 41 YEARS OF
CONTINUOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER AND
EMERGENCY RESPONDER TO THE COMMUNITY AND
SURROUNDING AREAS OF DUTCH FLAT.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the many years of dedicated service provided by Robert "Bob" Joslin as a volunteer Firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Bob Joslin and his brother moved to Placer County with their parents in 1964 and then to Dutch Flat in 1971; and

WHEREAS, he was immediately recruited to the Dutch Flat Fire Department by a past and now deceased Chief, William Fanning; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers at the Dutch Flat Fire Department respond to an estimated 250 calls per year encompassing all types of emergencies in the Dutch Flat and surrounding communities including traffic accidents on Interstate 80; and

WHEREAS, the number of active volunteers has fluctuated through the years at Dutch Flat but Bob and his two close friends, Charlie Bridges and Keith Petersen, fondly referred to as the "Three Amigos" have kept operations running steady; and

WHEREAS, Dutch Flat is located in the northeastern part of Placer County upon the ridge, once known as Dutch Flat Divide, that separates the Bear and North Fork of the American rivers. It was founded in the spring of 1861 by two German brothers, Joseph and Charles Dornbach and rumored to get its name from the muleskinners that referred to the Dornback camp as, "Dutch Charlie's Flat"; and

WHEREAS, unlike its surrounding communities, Dutch Flat has never burned and still has many of the original buildings dating back to the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, Bob is a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and has an Associate of Science (AS) Degree in Fire Science and has been a self-employed Geotechnical Engineer for over 30 years in Placer County; and

WHEREAS, Bob has had many memorable experiences on the fire department but in one incident he fell through the floor during a structure fire in Alta which made quite an impact and drove home the dangers of each call. Bob currently serves as a Fire Apparatus Engineer for the Dutch Flat Fire Department and has for several years during his service.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Robert "Bob" Joslin for over 41 years of service as a volunteer Firefighter protecting the Dutch Flat community and surrounding areas.

Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5,
Chairwoman 2012

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4

DECEMBER 11, 2012 IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION THANKING KEITH PETERSEN FOR OVER 25 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONDER TO THE COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS OF DUTCH FLAT.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes the many years of dedicated service provided by Keith Petersen as a volunteer Firefighter; and

WHEREAS, Keith was recruited by his friend and current Captain, Charlie Bridges to serve on the Dutch Flat Fire Department after he and his wife moved to Dutch Flat 31 years ago. They reside in a Victorian home that has been in their family since the 1940's; and

WHEREAS, the volunteers at the Dutch Flat Fire Department respond to an estimated 250 calls per year encompassing all types of emergencies in the Dutch Flat and surrounding communities including traffic accidents on Interstate 80; and

WHEREAS, the number of active volunteers has fluctuated through the years at Dutch Flat but Keith and his two close friends, Charlie Bridges and Robert Joslin, fondly referred to as the "Three Amigos" have kept operations running steady. Unlike its surrounding communities, Dutch Flat has never burned and still has many of the original buildings dating back to the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, Dutch Flat is located in the northeastern part of Placer County upon the ridge, once known as Dutch Flat Divide, that separates the Bear and North Fork of the American rivers. It was founded in the spring of 1861 by two German brothers, Joseph and Charles Dornbach and rumored to get its name from the muleskinners that referred to the Dornbach camp as, "Dutch Charlie's Flat"; and

WHEREAS, Keith is a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and works for the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in their maintenance division. He used his bodywork experience to help restore a 1973 International Brush Rig used by the department for ten years; and

WHEREAS, when asked why he chooses to volunteer, Keith responded by saying, "I find community service and helping people to be the most rewarding experience ever and I don't mind a bit sacrificing weekends to stay home and take care of the town"; and

WHEREAS, Keith's most memorable experience involved an automobile accident he came upon while off duty where he had to get inside the vehicle and apply traction to the female victim while she was being extracted resulting in saving her life and him being awarded a Commendation by the CHP.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Keith Petersen for over 25 years of service as a volunteer Firefighter protecting the Dutch Flat community and surrounding areas.

Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5,
Chairwoman 2012

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4