

3-6-1860

Report : Petition of K. Taylor

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 6, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILKINSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 250.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Kate D. Taylor, widow of Brevet Captain Oliver H. P. Taylor, praying for a pension, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and find:

That the husband of the petitioner was a cadet in 1842; brevet second lieutenant, dragoons, 1st July, 1846; brevet first lieutenant, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in New Mexico," 4th February, 1847; brevetted captain, September, 1852; killed in conflict with an overpowering band of Indians in Washington Territory, 17th May, 1858.

The petitioner has been allowed five years' half pay, at the rate of \$26 66½ per month, as a widow of a first lieutenant of dragoons. She now prays the half pay of captain of dragoons, as her late husband was a brevet captain, and discharging the duties of a full captain at the time he received the wounds in the battle with the Indians, and from which he died, as above stated.

It appears that in the battle of the 17th May, 1858, between the United States forces under Colonel Steptoe and several tribes of Indians, and while Colonel Steptoe's command was in retreat, under the fierce and pressing pursuit of the Indians, "the difficult and dangerous duty was assigned to Captain Taylor and Lieutenant Gaston, of flanking the column; that in their heroic efforts thus to protect the main body from the swarming savages, they both fell covered with wounds and honor."

It also appears that the petitioner has been left to support her two infant, orphan children, and is destitute of means for their maintenance.

Your committee, after giving the case their careful attention, believe it to be a meritorious one, and therefore report a bill for her relief, and recommend its passage.