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On the Case of J. Dolan

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 21, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PLUMB, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 556.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 556) to authorize the President to appoint Sergeant John Dolan, of the Fifth Cavalry, a second lieutenant, and place him on the retired list, have considered the same, and report as follows:

That John Dolan enlisted in the Army May 27, 1850, and has been in almost continuous service since, or for a period of nearly thirty years, and for considerably over twenty years has served in the rank of first sergeant. Without troubling the Senate with the minute details of his military history, which are clearly and admirably set forth in the papers accompanying the bill, the committee are thoroughly convinced that the record is such, that the facts and circumstances which have distinguished his long career are of such a nature, as to fully entitle him to the relief sought. A brief and imperfect summary follows:

Upon his enlistment Dolan was assigned to Company G, First Dragoons, and was almost continually in active service against the Indians during his first term of enlistment, distinguishing himself by his bravery, as well as by his conduct and deportment.

He re-enlisted in the same company March 27, 1855, and participated in numerous expeditions against the Indians, and was engaged in many fights and skirmishes with the Apaches in Arizona.

At the expiration of his second term Sergeant Dolan again enlisted at Saint Louis, Mo., March 28, 1860, and was assigned to Company B, First (now Fourth) Cavalry, under Captain Sackett, now Inspector-General of the Army. During that year he served in the expedition against the Comanche and Kiowa Indians, participating in all the actions in which his company was engaged, and was subsequently stationed at Fort Arbuckle, whence the United States forces were driven by the Texas troops, in April, 1861. He served with his regiment during the early operations of the late war, in Missouri, participating in the battle of Springfield, and subsequently his regiment was with Grant at Pittsburgh Landing, engaging in the operations of that army until after the fall of Corinth. He participated in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, greatly distinguishing himself, and in the latter being in command of his company, and having a horse shot under him during Bragg's retreat. He was also present at the battle of Snow Hill, and while commanding the advance guard had his horse shot under him, and was himself severely wounded. He was with General Sherman's

army in the campaign through Georgia, and subsequently joined General Thomas's command, and participated in the battle of Nashville, having his horse shot under him. He was captured by the enemy and confined in Andersonville prison for four months, when he was exchanged and rejoined his regiment in July, 1865. After the war Sergeant Dolan was in constant service in Georgia and Texas until December 16, 1870, when he was discharged for disability resulting from the breaking out of his old wounds. After his wounds had healed he again enlisted in the Sixth Cavalry November 11, 1871, and since that period has been in active service in the Indian Territory and Arizona, enlisting once more in Company F of the Fifth Cavalry December 10, 1876.

In October, 1863, Sergeant Dolan was recommended for promotion by all the officers serving with his regiment, but did not go before a board for examination. Again, in 1864, he was recommended for a commission and ordered before a board for examination, but failed to pass the surgeon's scrutiny on account of the wounds received at Snow Hill.

Sergeant Dolan's testimonials are of the most unexceptionable character, and, as indicative of their general tenor, the committee cite the "character on discharge" given to him by his respective company commanders:

March 27, 1855. "A gallant and excellent soldier." R. S. Ewell, captain, First Dragoons.

March 27, 1860. "A brave and faithful soldier." R. S. Ewell, captain, First Dragoons.

July 20, 1864. "A brave, energetic, and faithful soldier." John G. Webster, second lieutenant, Fourth United States Cavalry.

July 20, 1867. "A scrupulously honest and upright soldier, and one of the best first sergeants in the Army." Clarence Mauck, brevet-major and captain, Fourth United States Cavalry.

December 16, 1870. "Sergeant Dolan has been first sergeant of my company (B, Fourth Cavalry) since April, 1862, during which time he has shown himself a faithful and honest soldier, and an honest and trustworthy man." Clarence Mauck, captain, Fourth Cavalry, commanding Company B.

November 11, 1876. "There is not a more brave or honest soldier, or better first sergeant, in the United States Army." Frank West, first lieutenant, Sixth Cavalry, commanding Company H.

To these the committee might add, were it deemed necessary, the most flattering indorsements from a large number of officers of the several commands with which Sergeant Dolan has served, but they consider it essential to say only that the testimonials referred to are not simply of a formal character, but they are warm, hearty, and even enthusiastic, and are such as to convince the committee that the applicant is eminently worthy of and justly entitled to the relief for which he seeks. He is now in advanced years, suffering from wounds received in service, as well as from the results of hardships, exposure, and imprisonment, and the committee have no hesitation in recommending his promotion and retirement as a measure of justice, as well as of generosity.