

6-27-1882

Report : Petition of E. Custer

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 27, 1882.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CHILCOTT, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1819.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1819) granting an increase of pension to Mrs. Elizabeth C. Custer, widow of General George A. Custer, having carefully considered the same, report as follows:

That the evidence on file in this case proves conclusively that the applicant is the lawful widow of George A. Custer, who entered the Army as a second lieutenant in 1861, and served with conspicuous gallantry throughout the war of the rebellion. For such gallant and meritorious service he was rapidly promoted until on March 13, 1865, he was brevetted a major-general in the United States Army.

General Custer was honorably mentioned and received promotions for distinguished conduct at the battles of Gettysburg, Yellow Tavern, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Five Forks.

After the war, to wit, on July 28, 1866, General Custer was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Seventh Cavalry.

In 1876 General Custer was ordered to participate in the Little Big Horn expedition, and was killed in battle on the Little Big Horn River, in Montana Territory, on the 25th day of June, 1876. The extraordinary sad details of this unfortunate battle are too fresh in the minds of the American people to require repetition here; the entire command accompanying General Custer was annihilated, not one escaping to tell the story.

Your committee are of the opinion that the widow of this valiant officer ought to be granted a pension of \$50 per month.

On June 26, 1876, Mrs. Custer was granted a pension of \$30 per month.

Your committee recommend the passage of Senate bill 1819, with the following amendment, viz, strike out all after the word "to" in line 4, and insert in lieu thereof the words "increase the pension of \$30 now received by Mrs. Elizabeth C. Custer, widow of General George A. Custer, to \$50 per month, to take effect from and after the passage of this act."