

2-6-1885

Report : Petition of E. Alvord

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1885.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 7659.]

The Committee on Pensions, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 7659) granting a pension to Mrs. Emily L. Alvord, having examined the same, submits the following report:

The circumstances of this case are set forth in the report of the House Committee on Invalid Pensions as follows:

That General Alvord was an officer in the Army of the United States in continuous service for forty-seven years. His military record is most satisfactory and brilliant. He was in the Florida war against the Seminole Indians, was engaged in several skirmishes, and was promoted for his gallant conduct. He was in the war with Mexico, and participated in several engagements, and was twice promoted for his gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of said war. He was in command as brigadier-general United States Volunteers from 1862 to 1866 in the war with the seceding States, and promoted in the Regular Army for faithful and meritorious services to brevet lieutenant-colonel, and brevet-colonel, and brevet brigadier-general in the United States Army. He was afterward Paymaster-General of the United States Army, and discharged the duties of the office with great ability, giving entire satisfaction, being honest, faithful, and industrious.

He died in 1884, having been on the retired list four years, of disease contracted while in active service in the Army and in the line of his duty, as shown by the certificate of the surgeon of the United States Army, which certificate is appended to this report. He graduated in the Military Academy of the United States; was a scholar of distinction; was assistant professor of mathematics and of natural and experimental philosophy at the United States Military Academy in 1837. He was the author of some valuable books, which honored him. He was a pure and devout Christian, of high honor, a warm and generous friend, and a kind husband and father, as brave as the bravest and as gentle as the gentlest. His widow, the only wife he ever had, his companion for many years and the mother of his children, is old and infirm, with but little money or property and with three children and a very old and helpless maiden sister of her husband to support.

Wherefore they report the bill without amendment, with the opinion that it ought to pass.

I certify that Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord, U. S. A., retired, was, at the date of his retirement, suffering from chronic diarrhea, for which he had been repeatedly treated by me during the last two years of his active service. Though for many years, and dating as far in the past as the Mexican war, General Alvord had been frequently compelled to apply for medical treatment for diarrhea, to which he was strongly predisposed, it did not become a permanent and chronic disease until in 1876, and when in the line of his duty as Paymaster-General. At that time and subsequently his health

became so much impaired as to necessitate the daily use of remedies and led to feeble action of the heart, general debility, and organic disease of the kidneys, of which he died.

BASIL NORRIS,
Surgeon, United States Army.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., December 8, 1884.

True copy.

WM. B. ROCHESTER,
Paymaster-General, United States Army.

The committee does not feel warranted in favoring the passage of the bill, and therefore recommends that it be indefinitely postponed.

REPORT

THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

The committee on Pensions, having received the bill (H. R. 1100) for the relief of Mrs. Emily L. Alvord, having examined the same, and the following report:

The committee on Pensions, having received the bill (H. R. 1100) for the relief of Mrs. Emily L. Alvord, having examined the same, and the following report: