

4-20-1886

Report : Petition of J. Waters

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 20, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5074.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5074) granting an increase of pension to James Waters, have examined the same and report that after careful examination they have adopted the report by the Committee on Pensions, House of Representatives, hereto annexed, and recommend the passage of the bill.

[Report of committee, House of Representatives.]

The claim in this case is one of merit. The pensioner, James Waters, is about ninety years of age. He draws a pension, certificate No. 25506, of \$8 per month. In his letter, under oath, submitted to us, he says:

"I served in the war of 1812; I was born in the year 1797, in Philadelphia; emigrated to Oregon in the year 1843; my health is very poor; my eye-sight is nearly gone; I have no means of support except my pension of \$8 per month; I served five years in the Regular Army; I served six months in the Florida war as first lieutenant; I served in the Indian war in Oregon in 1847 as colonel; I am not able to do any work; I am badly crippled; will be ninety years old February 22, 1886."

The judge of the county states under oath that he has known Col. James Waters for twenty-five years; that for at least ten years last past he has been in failing health, and suffering the disabilities of extreme old age; feeble in body, almost entirely blind, hearing almost gone; is poor, and has no means of support other than his small pension.

The postmaster of his town states that the old veteran is poor; yes, very poor, and suffering more than the usual amount of the infirmities of life; crippled in body, blind, or almost so, hearing impaired, in fact, helpless, and that his pension of \$8 per month is entirely too small to furnish him the comforts of life, leaving him without attendance, medical, or otherwise.

Your committee see the force of the statement, and admit the necessity of an increase of the pension. They are therefore unanimously of the opinion that said pension should be increased to such a sum as would give this aged and honorable veteran at least a comfortable support during the balance of his few remaining days that he may have to linger on the shores of time, with vision gone, vitality lost, hearing impaired, waiting for the roll-call on the other side. Your committee recommend the passage of the bill.