

ANTHONY WALTON BAYARD.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 270.]

FEBRUARY 25, 1846.

MR. GOODYEAR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Anthony Walton Bayard, make the following report :

That it appears, from the papers of the petitioner, that he is entitled to a pension in consequence of several wounds received whilst in the service of the United States during the last war with Great Britain, and that he was accordingly placed upon the pension roll at the rate of eight dollars per month, his pension to commence on the day of March, 1844. The petitioner states that at the time of his discharge, he knew that he was entitled to a pension ; but being at that time possessed of some property, he declined making an application for it, supposing that in case his circumstances should ever render it necessary for him to apply for it, he would be entitled to receive all arrearages. He further states that he has now become poor, that he is very helpless and decrepit ; and inasmuch as no existing law will make him any allowance for arrearages of pension, he therefore prays for the passage of a special act, authorizing him to receive such sum of money as will be equal to an annuity of ninety-six dollars per year from the day of his discharge from the service up to the commencement of his present pension. The committee, in all ordinary cases, have declined recommending the passage of any law providing for the payment of arrearages of pension ; but the petitioner insists that he is entitled to it in consequence of the number and severity of his wounds and the importance of the services rendered his country. He states that, at the time of the battle with the Indians at Fort Harrison, the enemy had succeeded in setting fire to one of the blockhouses, from which the fire was communicated to the roof of the soldiers' barracks ; that the commanding officer called for volunteers to mount the roof and extinguish the fire, which was within point blank shot of the enemy's rifles ; that the petitioner and another soldier volunteered, and mounted the burning roof ; that his companion was immediately shot down, and he severely wounded ; but that he succeeded in extinguishing the fire, and thus saving a large amount of valuable property to his country at the imminent peril of his life. He further states that whilst in the line of his duty, he, upon one occasion, received a rifle ball through his leg below the knee ; that upon another he had his jawbone and his

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skull fractured; and that upon a third a splinter from a shot cut his abdomen completely open for some six inches in length, and that the combined effect of all these wounds renders him wholly incompetent to support himself and family. The committee, from a personal examination of the petitioner, and from the certificate of the surgeon and his commanding officer, are satisfied that the above statement contains the simple truth. The committee, therefore, deem this a case which will warrant a departure from general rules, and accordingly recommend the passage of a bill for his relief.

February 26, 1848

Mr. GOVERNOR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reads the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Andrew Weston, report, as follows:

That it appears from the papers of the petitioner, that he is entitled to a pension in consequence of several wounds received while in the service of the United States during the late war with Great Britain, and that he was accordingly placed upon the pension roll at the rate of eight dollars per month, his pension to commence on the 1st day of March, 1844. The petitioner states that at the time of the discharge he knew that he was entitled to a pension; but being at that time possessed of some property, he declined making an application for it, supposing that in case his circumstances should ever render it necessary for him to apply for it, he would be entitled to receive all arrears. He further states that he has true property, but that he is very helpless and destitute; and inasmuch as he wishes law will make him any allowance for arrears of pension, he therefore prays for the passage of a special act authorizing him to receive such sum of money as will be equal to an annuity of ninety-six dollars per year from the day of his discharge from the service up to the commencement of his present pension. The committee in all ordinary cases have declined recommending the passage of any law providing for the payment of arrears of pension; but the petitioner insists that he is entitled to it in consequence of the number and severity of the wounds and the importance of the services rendered his country. It seems that at the time of the battle with the Indians at Fort Henry, the enemy had succeeded in sending the fire one of the stockpiles, from which the fire was communicated to the foot of the soldiers' barracks; that the commanding officer called for volunteers to mount the fort and withstand the fire which was within point blank shot of the enemy's rifles; that the petitioner and another soldier volunteered and mounted the battery; that the companion was unfortunately shot down, and he severely wounded; but that he succeeded in extinguishing the fire, and thus saving a large amount of valuable property to his country at the imminent peril of his life. He further states that while in the line of his duty, he upon one occasion, received a rifle ball through his leg below the knee; that upon another he had his jawbone and his

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