

MRS. MARIA HUNTER.

JULY 13, 1886.—Laid over and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 7167 and Ex. Doc. 327.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7167) for the relief of Mrs. Maria Hunter, with the President's objections, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

The following is the report originally submitted in this case:

[House Report No. 1522, Forty-ninth Congress, first session.]

The claimant is the widow of the late Maj. Gen. David Hunter, who died on the 2d day of February, 1886. General David Hunter was one of the most distinguished soldiers of the late war, as his military record, herewith attached and made part of this report, shows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., March 20, 1886.

Statement of the military service of David Hunter, late of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He was a cadet at the United States Military Academy from September 14, 1818, to July 1, 1822, when he was graduated and appointed second lieutenant Fifth Infantry; promoted first lieutenant June 30, 1828; appointed captain First Dragoons, March 4, 1833, resigned July 4, 1836; appointed additional paymaster November 13, 1841; vacated appointment as such March 14, 1842, having been appointed major and paymaster United States Army from that date; appointed colonel Sixth United States Cavalry, May 14, 1861; brigadier-general United States Volunteers, May 17, 1861, and major-general United States Volunteers, August 13, 1861; honorably mustered out of the volunteer service January 15, 1866; retired from the active service with the rank of colonel July 31, 1866.

He was brevetted brigadier-general United States Army March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Piedmont and during the campaign in the valley of Virginia," and major-general United States Army, March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services during the war."

He joined his regiment in January, 1823, and served therewith in Minnesota to April, 1825; on leave to November, 1825; with regiment in Minnesota and Wisconsin to October 23, 1827; on leave to April 15, 1828; with regiment in Minnesota to June, 1828; at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to October, 1828; at Fort Dearborn, Ill., to May, 1831, and at Fort Howard, Wis., to June 28, 1831; on leave to June, 1832; with regiment at Forts Winnebago and Howard, Wis., to April 18, 1833, when, having been appointed captain First Dragoons, he left to join that regiment and served therewith at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to November 20, 1833, and in the Indian Territory and Kansas to January 20, 1836; on leave to July 4, 1836, when he resigned.

He served in Florida from date of reappointment in the Army as additional paymaster until April, 1842; at Washington, D. C., to June, 1842; in Arkansas to July, 1846; in the war with Mexico to July, 1848; at New Orleans, La., to March, 1849; at

Washington, D. C., Detroit, Mich., and New York City to May, 1856; in Kansas and Saint Louis, Mo., to February, 1861; and at Washington, D. C., to date of appointment as colonel Sixth United States Cavalry.

He served as a brigade and division commander in the Department of Northeastern Virginia (General McDowell's army) from May 28, 1861, to July 21, 1861, when wounded in action at Bull Run, Va.; commanded first division of the Western Department from September 22, 1861, to November 3, 1861, the Western Department to November 19, 1861, the Department of Kansas to March 11, 1862, and the Department of the South from March 15 to August 22, 1862; on leave to September 23, 1862; member of a military commission at Washington, D. C., to January 20, 1863; commanding Department of the South to June 12, 1863; on special duty at Washington, D. C., to March 29, 1864; awaiting orders to May 19, 1864; awaiting orders to January 31, 1865; on special duty and awaiting orders to muster-out of volunteer service January 15, 1866; on leave of absence to July 31, 1866, when he was retired at his own request, being over sixty-two years of age (act July 17, 1862).

He served as a member of the special claims commission from August 9, 1866, and also of a board for the examination of cavalry officers to June 16, 1868, from which date he was unemployed until he died, February 2, 1886.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The following is the message of the President returning the bill without his approval:

To the House of Representatives:

I hereby return without approval House bill number seventy-one hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An act for the relief of Mrs. Maria Hunter."

The beneficiary named in this bill, to whom it is therein proposed to grant a pension at the rate of fifty dollars a month, on the 23d day of March, 1886, filed her application for a pension in the Pension Bureau, where it is still pending undetermined.

Although the deceased soldier held a high rank, I have no doubt his widow will receive ample justice through the instrumentality organized for the purpose of dispensing the nation's grateful acknowledgment of military service in its defense.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
June 23, 1886.

[H. R. 7167. Forty-ninth Congress, first session.]

An act for the relief of Mrs. Maria Hunter.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to place on the pension-roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Maria Hunter, widow of David Hunter, late colonel of the Sixth Regiment United States Cavalry and major-general of United States volunteers, at the rate of fifty dollars per month.

JOHN G. CARLISLE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOHN SHERMAN,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

The effect of this bill would be to give the beneficiary a pension of \$20 per month more than that given by the general law. In view of the fact that the widows of officers under the law receive much larger pensions than the widows of soldiers, and in view of the further fact that it is not alleged or claimed that this widow needs any increase of her pension, and in view of the further fact that we have barely tolerated the increase of the pensions of widows of officers, we therefore recommend that the objection of the President be sustained, and that the bill do not pass.

It is true, as stated by the President, that the beneficiary named in this bill had a claim pending in the Pension Office at the time of the passage of this bill, and that since then, as we are informed, she has been granted by said office the full pension allowed by law as the widow of a major-general.

VIEWS OF THE MINORITY.

In view of the fact that the present and previous Congresses have invariably granted a pension of \$50 per month to widows of officers holding a similar rank to that held by General Hunter at the time of his death, and as the President has at the present session of Congress approved (by signing) a number of bills of this character, and that of Mrs. General Hancock, granting her a pension of \$2,000 per annum, we can see no reason why the case of Mrs. Hunter, the widow of a gallant and meritorious officer who served his country faithfully and well from 1823 to the close of our late civil war, should be made an exception, and therefore recommend that the bill pass, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

J. E. O'HARA.
MARTIN A. HAYNES.
E. N. MORRILL.
JNO. G. SAWYER.
E. H. CONGER.
JAS. A. LOUTTIT.