

JOSEPHINE DE COSTA THOMAS.

MARCH 17, 1866.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 4688.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4688) granting a pension to Josephine De Costa Thomas, beg leave to report :*

That the claimant is the widow of Capt. Evan Thomas, whose military record is as follows :

He was appointed second lieutenant Fourth United States Artillery April 9, 1861; promoted first lieutenant May 14, 1861, and captain August 31, 1864. He received the brevets of captain United States Army December 13, 1862, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., and major United States Army, July 3, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

He served with his company at Fort Monroe, Va., from May 1, 1861, to June 14, 1861; on signal duty to December 6, 1861; with battery in Army of the Potomac to June 25, 1862; on sick leave to August 17, 1862; with battery in Army of the Potomac to February 11, 1863; on leave to March, 1863; with battery in Army of the Potomac to July 29, 1863; with Adjutant-General Lorenzo Thomas, engaged in organizing colored troops in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi to May, 1865; at Washington, D. C., to September 1, 1865; with battery at Forts Baker and Whipple, Va., to November, 1865, and at Fort Washington, Md., to February 9, 1866, and served there with his company to July 20, 1870; on leave to August 26, 1870; with company at Raleigh, N. C., to September 30, 1870; at Fort Monroe, Va., to October 24, 1870; at Graham and Lumberton, N. C., to May 22, 1871; at Shelby and Rutherfordton, N. C., to September 20, 1871; at Charlotte, N. C., to October 13, 1872; *en route* to and at Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., to January 21, 1873, and in the Modoc campaign until killed, April 26, 1873, in action with Modoc Indians at the Lava Beds, California; he was in the battles of the Wilderness, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and both battles of Bull Run.

When he was killed he was on a reconnoitering party with sixty-nine soldiers, artillerymen—no cavalry—into the Lava Beds; was not able to find any of the Modocs until he reached a place where the eruptions of the earth had produced deep caverns in the rock, and where the high cliffs that surrounded them was in the shape of a semi-circle, with large crevices in them, in which the Indians were concealed from sight and protected from the fire of Thomas's command. When he had advanced

without molestation or having seen any Indians, he was suddenly fired upon from ambush by a cross-fire and a heavy enfilading fire, where it was impossible to advance and very difficult to retreat. Finding that it was impossible to save his men, he gallantly determined to sell his life and theirs as dearly as he could, calling upon his men who were panic-stricken, and saying to them, "It is as good a place to die as any—fight and die like men and soldiers," and many other words of encouragement, he fell, covered with blood, and died, emptying his revolver into the advancing Indians.

He was the son of General Lorenzo Thomas, enlisted in the Army when seventeen years old, displayed in the numerous battles he was engaged in great gallantry and coolness. He was a young officer of exceeding great promise, and great hopes were entertained that he would gain the highest eminence of military fame. He leaves the claimant a widow with two children, who are unfortunately very poor and hard run to support themselves.

Your committee report the bill back with an amendment: Strike out the word "fifty" and insert the word "forty," and with that amendment report that it ought to pass.