HARRY P. CREEKMORE

February 1 (calendar day, February 12), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Hale, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2178]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 2178) for the relief of Harry P. Creekmore, having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill proposes to grant Harry P. Creekmore the rights and benefits of law conferred upon honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines by holding him to have been honorably discharged from the Marine Corps on June 25, 1899, and to thereby relieve him of the disabilities carried by the charge of desertion now standing against his name and record.

The facts in the case are as follows: Harry P. Creekmore enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 29, 1898, to serve for a period of five years. He performed duty as part of the marine guard of the U. S. S. Texas from April 22, 1898, throughout the Spanish-American War, to June 25, 1899, when he deserted.

On June 12, 1898, the marine guard of the U. S. S. Texas was landed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to reinforce the marine battalion engaged with the Spaniards. Mr. Creekmore was one of 37 marines who landed, helped to hoist the American flag in Cuba, and was one of four men who volunteered to dig the graves, under heavy fire, to bury the first Americans who fell in battle.

On July 3, 1898, the U. S. S. Texas was engaged in the battle of Santiago, at which time Mr. Creekmore was a member of her crew.

On November 5, 1899, he enlisted in the Army, under the name of Harry Paul, for service in the Philippine Islands; he served two years in the insurrection, and was honorably discharged from the Army, with character “good.”
During the World War Mr. Creekmore was employed in the naval aircraft factory at Philadelphia, Pa., as a ship joiner. He had previously applied for enlistment in both the Navy and Marine Corps, but was not accepted.

The committee feels that, in view of Mr. Creekmore's honorable service in the Army, and his patriotic efforts during the World War, the disability now standing against his name and record should be relieved.