

JOHN REGAN

MAY 14, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. FURLOW, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following.

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1252]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1252) for the relief of John Regan, having considered the same, report thereon that the bill pass as amended.

Amend the bill by striking out the period in line 8 and adding the following: "as a private of that organization on the 10th day of October, 1865: *Provided*, That no bounty, back pay, pension, or allowance shall be held to have accrued prior to the passage of this act."

John Regan throughout the Civil War was in the Union Army from 1861 to 1865. The bill provides that in the administration of the laws conferring rights, privileges, and benefits upon honorably discharged soldiers he shall from now on be held and considered to have been honorably discharged from the military service.

MILITARY SERVICE

Enlisted June 17, 1861, in Company C, Forty-second New York Volunteer Infantry. Transferred immediately thereafter to Company H, same regiment. Discharged for purposes of reenlistment October 30, 1861. Enlisted November 1, 1861, as private in Troop A, Fifth Regiment Cavalry. Served with that regiment in the Army of the Potomac; captured as a prisoner in the Battle of the Wilderness; sent to the famous Andersonville prison. Later was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. Reenlisted February 22, 1864, as a veteran. Several months after the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox and General Johnston and other Confederate forces he deserted his command on October 10, 1865, while stationed at Cumberland, Md.

OTHER FACTS

Prior to his desertion, a substantial sum of money was paid to him while he was stationed at Cumberland. The war was over. With others, he got drunk and did not come to himself until several days thereafter, when he found himself at Pittsburgh. The war was over, and desiring to avoid punishment, he foolishly decided to remain away. He then proceeded from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati, where he was treated in a hospital for his eyes, which had bothered him off and on during a considerable portion of his service. He left Cincinnati to go out West, and for some years he was associated as a teamster, etc., with some of the regiments in our Regular Army who were engaged on the frontier in looking out for the Indians. He made application some years ago for a release from the charge of being a deserter, and this release was granted at that time. This was in 1891. His present age is about 82 years. He is practically blind, and has been an inmate of the soldiers' home of the State of Minnesota for many years.

ARGUMENT

This is the case of a real fighting man. He enlisted almost at the very beginning of the war and remained in combat service until months after hostilities had ceased. Not content with serving the period of his original enlistment of three years, he immediately re-enlists in order to participate in the campaign with Grant before Richmond. He was captured as a prisoner and suffered with many others at Andersonville prison. He received one honorable discharge and had a very honorable record throughout his combat service and up to and until the unfortunate occurrence resulting in his desertion. He is now practically blind and has certainly paid the penalty for his act of desertion. It would appear as if he ought now to be permitted to benefit by the pension legislation that is available for the Union soldiers who served in the Civil War.

