

TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF A DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO EUGENE B. ELY

FEBRUARY 20, 1931.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 5514]

The Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the bill (S. 5514) to authorize the posthumous award of a distinguished flying cross to Eugene B. Ely, having had the same under consideration, report favorably thereon with the following amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass:

Line 8, after the word "to" strike out "Nathan Dana Ely, colonel, United States Army, retired, father" and insert in lieu thereof the following: "Mabel Ely, wife".

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the President to award, but not in the name of Congress, a distinguished flying cross, posthumously, to Eugene B. Ely, for extraordinary achievement as a pioneer civilian aviator and for his significant contribution to the development of aviation in the United States Navy. The President may present such flying cross to Mabel Ely, wife of the said Eugene B. Ely.

Eugene B. Ely was a civilian flyer and was not a part of the naval organization. His work did, however, directly aid the development of naval aviation. His feat of flying aboard the *Pennsylvania* in 1911, which was assisted by retarding gear of primitive design, called attention for the first time to the possibilities of landplanes landing on shipboard. Ely had previously flown a landplane from a cruiser. These acts laid the foundation of our present carrier development.

The bill is favorably recommended by the Navy Department as shown by the following letter, addressed to the chairman of the

Committee on Naval Affairs, House of Representatives, and which is hereby made a part of this report:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 20, 1931.

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Replying further to the committee's letter of February 11, 1931, transmitting the bill (S. 5514) to authorize the posthumous award of a distinguished-flying cross to Eugene B. Ely, and requesting the views and recommendations of the Navy Department thereon, I have the honor to inform the committee as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the President to award, but not in the name of Congress, a distinguished-flying cross, posthumously, to Eugene B. Ely, for extraordinary achievement as a pioneer civilian aviator and for his significant contribution to the development of aviation in the United States Navy. The President may present such flying cross to Nathan Dana Ely, colonel, United States Army, retired, father of the said Eugene B. Ely.

Eugene B. Ely was a civilian flyer and was not a part of the naval organization. His work did, however, directly aid the development of naval aviation. His feat of flying aboard the *Pennsylvania* in 1911, which was assisted by retarding gear of primitive design, called attention for the first time to the possibilities of landplanes landing on shipboard. Ely had previously flown a landplane from a cruiser. These acts laid the foundations of our present carrier development.

In the opinion of the Navy Department the pioneering efforts of the late Eugene B. Ely warrant governmental recognition and, as the Navy profited by his work, it is recommended that the bill, S. 5514, be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

C. F. ADAMS, *Secretary of the Navy.*

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