

JOHN GLASS.

VETO MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING

TO THE SENATE, WITH HIS OBJECTIONS, THE BILL (S. 1258) TO
REMOVE THE CHARGE OF DESERTION FROM THE NAVAL
RECORD OF JOHN GLASS.

MARCH 11, 1902.—Read; referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs and ordered to
be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I return without approval Senate bill No. 1258, entitled: "An act to remove the charge of desertion from the naval record of John Glass."

There can be no graver crime than the crime of desertion from the Army or Navy, especially during war; it is then high treason to the nation and is justly punishable by death. No man should be relieved from such a crime, especially when nearly forty years have passed since it occurred, save on the clearest possible proof of his real innocence. In this case the statement made by the affiant before the committee does not in all points agree with his statement made to the Secretary of the Navy. In any event it is incomprehensible to me that he should not have made effective effort to get back into the Navy. He had served but little more than a month when he deserted, and the war lasted for over a year afterwards, yet he made no effort whatever to get back into the war. Under such circumstances it seems to me that to remove the charge of desertion from the Navy and give him an honorable discharge would be to falsify the records and do an injustice to his gallant and worthy comrades who fought the war to a finish.

The names of the veterans who fought in the civil war make the honor list of the Republic, and I am not willing to put upon it the name of a man unworthy of the high position.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE, *March 11, 1902.*

[S. 1258. Fifty-seventh Congress of the United States of America; At the First Session, Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the second day of December, one thousand nine hundred and one.]

An Act to remove the charge of desertion from the naval record of John Glass.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to remove the charge of desertion now standing against the record of John Glass, late a first-class boy on board the United States steamship Moose, and to issue to him an honorable discharge from the service.

D. B. HENDERSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. P. FRYE,

President of the Senate pro tempore.

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