

THOMAS F. WALTER.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING

WITHOUT APPROVAL, HOUSE BILL 5761, ENTITLED "AN ACT
GRANTING A PENSION TO THOMAS F. WALTER."

APRIL 18, 1902.—Read; referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions and ordered
to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith, without my approval, House bill No. 5761, entitled "An act granting a pension to Thomas F. Walter."

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to place on the pension roll the name of Thomas F. Walter, late first lieutenant Company A, Ninety-first Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and pay him a pension of \$17 per month.

The records of the War Department show that this soldier was cashiered by sentence of a general court-martial April 16, 1865, upon a finding that he was guilty of the charge of disobedience of orders, in that he had deliberately refused to comply with a detail to go on picket duty December 31, 1864.

He has applied for pension under different laws at different times and for different causes, but his applications have been denied by the Pension Bureau.

The disobedience of orders, of which the soldier was found guilty, is admitted by him, and, in view of his position in the service, was with full knowledge of the consequences. To inscribe his name on the pension roll, as this bill contemplates, would be to condone an inexcusable offense by a commissioned officer, to detract from the high estimate in which the pension roll ought ever to be held, and to do an injustice to soldiers now on that roll, especially those under the act of June 27, 1890, where an honorable discharge from the service is a condition precedent to obtaining pension.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE, April 16, 1902.

A BILL (H. R. 5761) granting a pension to Thomas F. Walter.

Be it enacted, etc., That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Thomas F. Walter, late first lieutenant Company A, Ninety-first Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and pay him a pension at the rate of \$17 per month.

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