

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON. Feb. 9th. 1906.

Gen. C. H. Howard.

Chicago.

My dear General:-

Your letter at hand. The bill providing for a volunteer Officers retired list has not yet come up for consideration in our committee.

The opposition is confined principally to those persons who are "against " everything . If there is not a deficit in the treasury department, and if other appropriations are kept within proper bounds the bill has a fair show for passage, but I think it will come in probably as a Senate Amendment. Assuring you again of my hearty co-operation

Very Truly Yours

L. Fletcher

3 Maj Ore
33 Perry
151 Bath

151

36 unknown

2/9/1906

From: Rep. Loren Fletcher

To: Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-266

House of
Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Chicago, Ill.

[Letterhead]
House of Representatives
Washington

Feb. 9th. 1906.

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Chicago.

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Very Truly Yours
/s/ L. Fletcher

[This is probably Loren Fletcher, Representative from Minnesota from 1893 to 1906.]

From Gen. C. H. Howard,
U. S. Volunteers

1000 Tribune Building
Chicago, February 23, 1906

Hon. W. B. Allison,
U. S. Senator.

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your frank statements concerning the bill for a Volunteer Retired List. The fact that the officers who commanded brigades and higher commands, averaged considerably older than those of lower grade makes it seem more necessary to act on their behalf promptly if at all.

But other Congressmen have seen the difficulty of making any discrimination as to rank -- notably Capt. Hull, Chairman of the Military Committee of the House. An amendment has been suggested to him including all ranks but reducing the pay to one half.

For my own part I would rather see the measure go through without any pay attached -- putting these officers on this roll of honor (suitably limited as to actual service on the fighting line) than not to have the policy of a due recognition of volunteer officers adopted. If the bill could be passed in this form and the Volunteer Retired List established with the accurate record as to ages, length of service,

From Gen. C. H. Howard,
U. S. Volunteers

1000 Tribune Building
Chicago, February 22, 1862

U. S. Senator

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your frank statement concerning the
bill for a Volunteer Retired List. The fact that the officers
who commanded brigades and higher commands, averaged considerably
older than those of lower grade makes it seem more reason-
able to set on their behalf promptly if at all.

But other Congressmen have seen the difficulty of
making any discrimination as to rank -- notably Gen. Hall,
Chairman of the Military Committee of the House. As a result
of this has been suggested to him including all those who have

ing the way to one half.
For my own part I would rather see the measure go
through without any pay attached -- putting these officers
on this roll of honor; and thereby limited as to actual service
on the fighting line (than not to have the policy of a law
provision for volunteer officers adopted. If the bill could
be passed in this form and the Volunteer Retired List established
linked with the moderate reward as to age, length of service,

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present residence, etc., then whenever cases of actual want were brought to the attention of Senators or Members of Congress, some subsequent measure could be enacted to meet these cases. I know there are a number of such instances of officers who were wounded and distinguished for their gallantry, and it amounts to almost a disgrace to our country that such veterans should be allowed to suffer, or to feel the degradation of extreme penury.

Instead of passing a bill to meet a single case as has been done from time to time, could not a law be enacted, say in connection with general appropriations, making provision for officers of seventy years or of some age above seventy, who should make formal application endorsed by their Congressman and Senator?

There is no pension provided, I believe, for the Volunteer officer -- the only pension available being the \$12 per month intended for enlisted men at the age of seventy. Our policy in regard to Volunteer Officers of the Civil War does not compare favorably with that adopted after our other national wars.

I know some volunteers who were appointed into the regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed for the sole purpose of securing the retired officer's pay. In fact many regular officers who served by my side and were wounded in the same battles were retired years ago on three-

presented themselves, etc., when whenever cases of actual want
were brought to the attention of Senators or Members of Con-
gress, some subsequent measure would be enacted to meet these
cases. I know there are a number of such instances of offi-
cers who were wounded and distinguished for their gallantry,
and it appears to almost a disgrace to our country that such
veterans should be allowed to suffer, or to lack the neces-
sary of extreme poverty.

Instead of passing a bill to meet a single case as
has been done from time to time, could not a law be enacted,
say in connection with general appropriations, making provi-
sion for officers of seventy years or of some age above sev-
enty, who would make formal application endorsed by their

Congressman and Senator?

There is no pension provided, I believe, for the
Volunteer officer -- the only pension available being for
the regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed
only. Our policy in regard to Volunteer officers of the
Civil War does not compare favorably with that adopted after
our other national wars.

I know some volunteers who were appointed into the
regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed
for the sole purpose of securing the retired officer's pay.
In fact many regular officers who served by my side and were
wounded in the same battle were retired years ago on three-

-:(3):-

quarters pay. There is a palpable injustice here that I am sure you will recognize.

But the broad ground, it seems to me, on which to base the legislation is that our country wants to depend on Volunteers in all great emergencies and to keep down our standing army to as low a limit as possible. Why not, then, establish the principle that at some age Volunteer officers shall be honored and treated the same as Regulars?

My service was mostly as Adjutant General or Inspector General with my brother, Gen. O. O. Howard; for three years, however, I had an independent command as a Brigadier General; but, with proper limitations, I should like to see the Volunteer Retired List open to officers of all ranks.

Respectfully,

O. O. Howard

--(3)--

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sure you will recognize.
But the great ground, it seems, is to
pass the legislation in that our country is to depend on
Volunteers in all great emergencies and to keep down our military
expense to as low a limit as possible. Why not, then, admit

be honored and trusted the most as Regiments?
My service was mostly as Adjutant General on Indian
for General with my brother, Gen. O. O. Howard; for three years,
however, I had an independent command as a Brigadier General;
but, with proper limitations, I should like to see the
Volunteer Retired list open to officers of all ranks.

Respectfully,

C. A. Howard

1000 Tribune Building
Chicago, February 23, 1906

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your frank statements concerning the bill for a Volunteer Retired List. The fact that the officers who commanded brigades and higher commands, averaged considerably older than those of lower grade makes it seem more necessary to act on their behalf promptly if at all.

But other Congressmen have seen the difficulty of making any discrimination as to rank -- notably Capt. Hull, Chairman of the Military Committee of the House. An amendment has been suggested to him including all ranks but reducing the pay to one half.

For my own part I would rather see the measure go through without any pay attached -- putting these officers on this roll of honor (suitably limited as to actual service on the fighting line) than not to have the policy of a due recognition of volunteer officers adopted. If the bill could be passed in this form and the Volunteer Retired List established with the accurate record as to ages, length of service,

1000 Tribune Building
Chicago, February 25, 1905

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your letter regarding the

bill for a Volunteer National List. The fact that the bill
was introduced by a member of the House, and that it
only after that time of lower grade than is now in force
and is not on their present program.

But other circumstances have been the result of
which any discrimination as to rank is necessary. The
action of the House Committee on the House, and the
fact that the bill is now in the hands of the

For my part I would rather see the bill
passed without any amendment -- leaving those officers
as this bill of honor is entirely limited as to actual service
as the present law) than not to have the policy of a law
recognition of volunteer officers adopted. If the bill could
be passed in this form and the Volunteer National List
listed with the regular record as to rank, length of service,

-:(2):-

present residence, etc., then whenever cases of actual want were brought to the attention of Senators or Members of Congress, some subsequent measure could be enacted to meet these cases. I know there are a number of such instances of officers who were wounded and distinguished for their gallantry, and it amounts to almost a disgrace to our country that such veterans should be allowed to suffer, or to feel the degradation of extreme penury.

Instead of passing a bill to meet a single case as has been done from time to time, could not a law be enacted, say in connection with general appropriations, making provision for officers of seventy years or of some age above seventy, who should make formal application endorsed by their Congressman and Senator?

There is no pension provided, I believe, for the Volunteer officer -- the only pension available being the \$12 per month intended for enlisted men at the age of seventy. Our policy in regard to Volunteer Officers of the Civil War does not compare favorably with that adopted after our other national wars.

I know some volunteers who were appointed into the regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed for the sole purpose of securing the retired officer's pay. In fact many regular officers who served by my side and were wounded in the same battles were retired years ago on three-

present position, etc., that whatever cases of actual work
were brought to the attention of Senators or members of Con-
gress, some subsequent measure could be enacted to meet those
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cers who were wounded and distinguished for their gallantry.

measures which he allowed to enter, or to feel the necessity
of extreme power.

Instead of passing a bill to pass a single case as
has been done from time to time, could not a law be enacted,
say in connection with general appropriations, making provi-
sion for officers of cavalry, or of some one above and
below, who should make formal application referred by their

Congressmen and Senators.

There is no pension provided, I believe, for the
Volunteer officer -- the only pension available being the
one for those intended for enlisted men at the age of sixty.

Civil War does not compare favorably with that which was
our other national wars.

I know some volunteers who were appointed into the
regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed
for the sole purpose of securing the retired officer's pay.
In fact many regular officers who served by no side and were
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-:(3):-

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But the broad ground, it seems to me, on which to base the legislation is that our country wants to depend on Volunteers in all great emergencies and to keep down our standing army to as low a limit as possible. Why not, then, establish the principle that at some age Volunteer officers shall be honored and treated the same as Regulars?

My service was mostly as Adjutant General or Inspector General with my brother, Gen. O. O. Howard; for three years, however, I had an independent command as a Brigadier General; but, with proper limitations, I should like to see the Volunteer Retired List open to officers of all ranks.

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-1(2)-

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be honored and trusted the same as regulars?

My answer was nearly an affirmative General or Inspect-

tor General with my brother, Gen. O. O. Howard, for three years.

However, I had an independent command as a Brigadier General.

But, with proper limitations, I should like to see the

Volunteer National List open to officers of all ranks.

Respectfully,

2/23/1906

From: Gen. C. H. Howard

To: Hon. W. B. Allison

CHH-267

U.S. Volunteers
1000 Tribune Building
Chicago, Ill.

U. S. Senator

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Respectfully,
/s/ C. H. Howard

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24, 1906.

My dear Col. Howard

I will now say that it appears the Volunteer Retirement Bill will not be favorably acted on. I am sure the feeling in the House would be unfriendly if reported. There is considerable hostile criticism on the retirement of the regular army officers by promoting them to a grade higher than they had reached and then at once retiring.

We retired Capt Boutelle and Gen Hawley, but it was just before they died, by special act. But it was considered a bad precedent.

I was in Portland the 12th. Lincoln's Birthday and saw Gen. Chamberlain who seemed well. Though about 75. If you come to Washington any time. Please let me know. as I want to see the once "Charlie Howard".

Best wishes
Sincerely yours

Amos L. Allen

Col. C. H. Howard

House of Representatives U.S.

Washington D.C. 1861

My dear Mr. Belmont

I will now say that of course the Union

is the first in the Union.

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2/24/1906 *From:* Rep. Amos L. Allen *To:* Col. C. H. Howard

CHH-268 House of
Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

[Letterhead]
House of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.,

Feb 24, 1906

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Best wishes.

Sincerely Yours,
Amos L. Allen

Col. C. H. Howard

[Note: Amos Allen was a Representative to the U.S. Congress from Maine from 1899 until his 1910. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1860, the year after Charles H. Howard.]