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72D CONGRESS }
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SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 287 }

RELIEF OF NANCY CATHERINE McBRIDE

FEBRUARY 24, 1932.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 792]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 792) for the relief of Nancy Catherine McBride, having considered the same, report it back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do not pass.

This bill would give war-risk compensation to the mother of a former soldier who died more than 10 years after discharge, as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage having no connection with his military service.

The report of the Veterans' Administration is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, January 8, 1932.

HON. REED SMOOT,
Chairman Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT. This is in reference to your communication of December 29, 1931, forwarding for report a copy of S. 792, Seventy-second Congress, a bill for the relief of Nancy Catherine McBride.

This bill provides for the payment by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs of \$20 per month to Nancy Catherine McBride during her lifetime as compensation for the death of her son, Walter W. McBride, in the same manner as if his death had resulted from an injury suffered in the military service of the United States during the World War. The veteran died on December 19, 1929, at United States Veterans' Bureau Hospital, Portland, Oreg., of cerebral hemorrhage, the contributory cause being oedema of lungs, acute, he having been admitted to this hospital on December 18, 1929.

Walter W. McBride was a Spanish American War veteran, having been a private of Company I, of the Second Regiment of Oregon Infantry Volunteers, having enrolled on the 26th of April, 1898, and honorably discharged on August 7, 1899. He also entered the World War service, having enlisted February 11, 1918, and honorably discharged on January 14, 1919. There was no record of any treatment during his World War service and he did not file a claim for disability compensation during his lifetime. During the period of his World War service he declined to apply for war-risk insurance.

Burial expenses in the amount of \$78.65 were paid the undertaker in this case. Senator Charles L. McNary, under date of July 14, 1930, filed an informal claim

for the benefit of the mother, and as the death of Mr. McBride could not be held to be due to service, Senator McNary was so advised: As you know, the legislation of July 3, 1930, permitted the payment of disability allowance benefits for nonservice-connected disabilities during a claimant's lifetime, but no provision was made in such legislation for the surviving dependents of those veterans.

It does not appear that the claim in this instance has any greater merit than many others wherein the veteran dies of ~~has~~ died of a nonservice-connected disease or injury. It is, as you know, against the policy of the Veterans' Administration to recommend special legislation except where administrative error or legal technicality has worked detriment or disadvantage to the person in whose favor legislation is sought.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, *Administrator.*

