

FREDERICK S. EASTER

DECEMBER 19, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

MR. STEPHENS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3431]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3431) for the relief of Frederick S. Easter, having had the same under consideration, report the same back to the House with an amendment, and as amended recommend that the bill do pass.

Line 9, after the word "States," strike out the period, insert a colon, and add the following proviso:

Provided, however, That no pension shall accrue prior to the passage of this act.

Frederick S. Easter, of Cincinnati, Ohio, enlisted January 9, 1918, arrived in France May 8, 1918, as a member of One hundred and forty-fifth Company, Third Replacement Battalion, United States Marine Corps, and was discharged July 26, 1919, with a bad-conduct discharge.

He was gassed June 10, 1918, and was wounded in the foot August 25, 1918, at Belleau Woods. He was in the hospital until November 11, 1918. Upon his return to the United States he was stationed at Norfolk, Va. He was in the hospital there for awhile. Suffering from his injured foot, he sat down to rest while on guard duty and went to sleep. He was court-martialed and given a bad-conduct discharge.

Affidavits, which are made a part of this report, will show that the boy suffered from gas, shell shock, and other injuries, and was affected mentally on account of his service in the Army.

This boy entered the service when he was a little past 16, served honorably in France, and from evidence submitted to the committee he was not responsible for his acts at Norfolk.

Following are the affidavits referred to in this report, which show conclusively that the boy was not responsible for his acts:

AFFIDAVIT OF BESSIE KINKEY

I, Bessie Kinkey, who being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth that I am the mother of one Frederick S. Easter, former marine, and that Frederick always was a good boy, of good habits and character, and never drank liquors of any kind before he went to war or since he came home; he always worked for me and helped me keep up the house. He enlisted in the marines January 10, 1918, and left for France April 23, 1918. Was gassed June 10, 1918, while leaving Boureches to the reserve line; also wounded in the foot on June 25, 1918, at Belleau Woods; was sent to hospital and left hospital on August 28, 1918; returned to hospital on November 11, 1918. He left France on December 9, 1918, arriving in the United States on December 20, 1918. Hereceived a furlough and on February 23, 1919, he returned to Norfolk hospital; he left for duty from hospital February 28, 1919, and was discharged on July 26, 1919, at Norfolk, with a bad-conduct discharge.

When Frededick came home on his furlough between December 26, 1918, and February 23, 1919, I could hardly believe it was my boy, for when he left for war he was in good health and strength, full of ambition and energy, and here he was before me a physical wreck, highly nervous, hollow-eyed, sickly, no ambition, and melancholy. There was a difference in him as there is in day and night; he took absolutely no interest in anything and all our friends and neighbors were surprised to see Frederick in such a broken-down condition. He had several fainting spells and was sick almost all of his furlough and I sent a telegram to Norfolk and received 30 days extra for him. He returned to Norfolk hospital February 28, 1919. Frederick was discharged on July 26, 1919, with a bad-conduct discharge, without clothes, money, food, or transportation, or anything, and he had to beat his way home on freight trains, and a brakeman took pity on him and helped him along. It was a terrible shock to me when my poor sick boy came to the home of Mrs. Catherine Martin, where I was staying, looking worse than a tramp—sick and hungry, hardly any clothes on his back, and it hurt me to think in what condition I gave my boy to the Government and after he gave his services in France then to send him back in such a condition. I had to buy him clothes before he could go out on the street to see his relatives and friends.

I honestly and truthfully believe that the charges made against my boy were not due to his being bad or disregarding orders, but to his being sick mentally and bodily, as he was so young and going through the World War, being gassed, shellshocked, and wounded had wrecked his whole nervous system and in that condition was not responsible for his actions or anything he did. He never drank intoxicating liquors before or since his return from war. After he was home for a while he began work at the Cincinnati Ball Crank Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, where I was working myself, and although he was doing the same work that young girls were doing he could not keep it up on account of his weakened condition and his injured foot.

BESSIE KINKEY.

STATE OF OHIO,
County of Hamilton, ss:

Be it remembered that on this 21st day of August A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came Bessie Kinkey, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above is true as she verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have here unto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

CATHERINE CROLLEY,
Notary Public, Hamilton County, Ohio.

My commission expires March 17, 1925.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM BRYANT

I, William Bryant, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth that I have known Frederick S. Easter, a former private in the Marine Corps, for 12 years, and have known him to be a sober and upright boy, and have never knew him to drink liquors of any kind; he was always bright and cheerful, and when he came to my house on his furlough in December 26, 1918, and again in February 22, 1919, I could not believe him to be the same boy, as

he became sick at my home and had several fainting spells, and acted drowsy and melancholy, and did not take an interest in anything. I believe that this changed condition in him is due to his being injured in France and the effect of his having been gassed.

WM. J. BRYANT.

STATE OF INDIANA,

County of Marion, ss:

Be it remembered, that on this 10th day of July, A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came William Bryant, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as he verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

JOHN E. STEEG,

Notary Public, Marion County, Ind.

My commission expires April 7, 1925.

AFFIDAVIT OF FANNIE GREINER

I, Fannie Greiner, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth that former private Frederick S. Easter, of the marines, has been known to me all his life, and he always was a good boy, sober and industrious, and eight months previous to his enlistment he boarded at my home. I have never known him to drink liquors of any kind; he worked steady, and was always a gentleman. He enlisted from my home in January, 1918, and wrote to me while overseas. He left for France in April, 1918, and while in France was wounded and gassed, and when he returned home he was in an awful shape; extremely nervous, and not the same as when he left for France. I believe that his being wounded and gassed in the war is the cause of his neglect of duty, if such it be called, and he ought not be held responsible for his actions at that time.

FANNIE GREINER.

STATE OF OHIO,

County of Hamilton, ss:

Be it remembered that on this 10th day of August, A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came Fannie Greiner, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as she verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

EMIL PALMER,

Notary Public, Hamilton County, Ohio.

My commission expires June 1, 1923.

AFFIDAVIT OF HENRY M. SHEARER

I, Henry M. Shearer, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth that I am the uncle of Frederick S. Easter, ex-marine, and know him to be a good boy. To my knowledge he has never been under the influence of liquors of any kind, and further that when he left for war he was in good health and strength, and when I saw him on his furlough on December 26, 1918, I could not believe it was the same boy. He was a nervous wreck. I was with him the greater part of his furlough and have seen his actions and at times he would fall in a faint and be drowsy and melancholy, having no interest in his surroundings. I believe that the boy is shell-shocked and is not responsible for his actions at the Norfolk yard, as after he went through the war receiving a wound and being gassed his entire nervous system is unstrung, and I can not see why the Government does not look into his case and give him some relief of some kind.

HENRY M. SHEARER.

STATE OF INDIANA,
County of Marion, ss:

Be it remembered that on this 15th day of July, A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came Henry M. Shearer, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as he verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

LORENA LOVETT,
Notary Public, Marion County, Ind.

My commission expires March 2, 1926.

AFFIDAVIT OF E. J. SHEARER

I, E. J. Shearer, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth that I am the uncle of Frederick S. Easter, ex-marine, and know him to be a good boy. To my knowledge he has never been under the influence of liquors of any kind, and further that when he left for war he was in good health and strength, and when I saw him on his furlough on December 26, 1918, I could not believe it was the same boy. He was a nervous wreck. I was with him the greater part of his furlough and have seen his actions and at times he would fall in a faint and be drowsy and melancholy, having no interest in his surroundings. I believe that the boy is shell shocked and is not responsible for his actions at the Norfolk yards, as after he went through the war, receiving a wound and being gassed, his entire nervous system is unstrung, and I can not see why the Government does not look into his case and give him some relief of some kind.

ENOCH SHEARER.

STATE OF INDIANA,
County of Marion, ss.

Be it remembered that on this 22d day of July A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came E. J. Shearer, the person making the above affidavit, who being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as he verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

LORENA LOVETT,
Notary Public, Marion County, Ind.

My commission expires March 2, 1926.

AFFIDAVIT OF IDA M. SHEARER

I, Ida M. Shearer, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and sayeth the Frederick S. Easter— former private in the marines, is my grandson and that he has lived with me the greater part of his life. That he was always a good boy and worked when he was not at school, and that he never drank any liquors of any kind as he grew up. During his furlough in December 26, 1918, and February 22, 1919, he spent part of his time at my home, and I was sick at heart to see the condition that Frederick was in, as he was extremely nervous and took no interest in his surrounding; he was not the same boy; there was difference between day and night in him. I believe this was all due to the injuries he received in France in the World War. Also had faint spells at my home.

IDA M. SHEARER.

STATE OF INDIANA,
County of Marion, ss:

Be it remembered that on this 22d day of July, A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came Ida M. Shearer, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as she verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

LORENA LOVETT,
Notary Public, Marion County, Ind

My commission expires March 2, 1926.

AFFIDAVIT OF MRS. GEORGE BAINAKA

I, Mrs. George Bainaka, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and saith that I have known Frederick S. Easter, ex-marine, since he was a baby, and was always a good, healthy boy. He visited me on his furlough December 26, 1918, and February 22, 1919, and I could hardly believe that it was the same boy that went to France in good health and strength, and here he was now a wreck. I believe that the Government should take care of this boy, as I am sure he was not responsible for his acts at Norfolk, and same was due to his having been gassed, shell-shocked, and wounded in France, which completely upset his nervous system and he ought not be held responsible.

Mrs. GEO. BAINAKA.

STATE OF INDIANA,

County of Marion, ss:

Be it remembered that on this 24th day of July, A. D. 1922, before me, a notary public in and for the above county and State, personally came Mrs. George Bainaka, the person making the above affidavit, who, being first duly cautioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true as she verily believes.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

A. D. THRASHER,

Notary Public, Marion County, Ind.

My commission expires March 7, 1924.

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ATTORNEY OF MR. GEORGE HAYAKAWA

I, Mrs. George Hayakawa, who being duly questioned and sworn, depose and say that I have known Frederick A. Easton, as herein named, for many years and was always a good friend to him. He called me on his birthday, December 25, 1912, and February 22, 1913, and I could easily believe that it was the same man that went to France in good health and strength, and that he was now a weak man. I believe that the Government should take care of this man, as I am sure he was not responsible for the case at Norfolk, and same was due to his having been a weak, shell-shocked, and wounded man in France, which would prevent his nervous system and he ought not to be held responsible.

Mrs. Geo. Hayakawa

STATE OF ILLINOIS

County of Madison, ss.

Be it remembered that on this 23rd day of July, A. D. 1922, before me, a Notary Public in and for the above county and state, personally came Mrs. George Hayakawa, the person making the above affidavit, who being duly questioned and sworn, says that the above affidavit is true to the best of her belief. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my Notary seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

(SEAL)

A. D. THURMAN,

Notary Public, Madison County, Ill.

My commission expires March 7, 1924.

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