



July 12, 2007

## **Samuel McCoy: An American Soldier Denied a Vote in Congress**



Dear Senator:

Samuel McCoy knows what it means to serve his country. A native Washingtonian, Mr. McCoy enlisted with the United States Navy as a high school teenager in 1953. His decorated military career spans more than thirty years, but he has never had the right of voting representation in Congress.

For the first time in a generation, we have the opportunity to correct this injustice. The DC House Voting Rights Act passed the House in April 241-177; was approved by the Homeland Security Committee in June 9-1; and is now awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. The bill provides DC citizens with their first-ever voting member of Congress.

Americans like Sam McCoy deserve a vote in Congress. Mr. McCoy's service earned him numerous distinctions, including the Naval Reserve Meritorious, Naval Defense, Armed Forces Reserve, and Navy Expert Pistol medals. Now a retired Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman, Mr. McCoy is a tireless advocate for DC voting rights.

There are others who share McCoy's story. Since the nation's founding, thousands of the District's young men and women have answered the call of duty. DC residents have fought and died in every American war, making the ultimate sacrifice for the preservation of American democracy.

DC veterans are Americans who have no vote in the very democratic institutions that they volunteer to defend. Today, as our soldiers struggle to ensure a democratic future for the people of Iraq, let us remember those among us here in the District who fight for democracy even while being denied it on their native soil.

For the sake of Ret. Senior Chief McCoy and all of the District of Columbia's servicemen and women, we urge you to support the DC House Voting Rights Act of 2007 (S. 1257).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilir Zherka".

Ilir Zherka  
Executive Director