

From: Esther Brown
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 4:52 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: AK Territorial Guard Ltr 1-27-09

Importance: High

My name is Mr. Andrew Brown Sr. of Mountain Village, Alaska. I am a 79 year Alaska Territorial Guard Veteran and proudly served our country in a time of great crisis when our nation faced two world wars against Japan and Germany from 1941 to 1947. I and my native comrades were recruited with no pay by Muktuk Marston. With no hesitation we knew it was critical as Mr. Marston made every effort to recruit every capable man state-wide at a time when we were most needed. I even had to forego my high school education to defend our country which I did not mind. The only benefits we received at that time were rifles, steel head ammunition, and uniforms. What we were most grateful of was the armed forces aggressively protecting our nation and allies in an extremely difficult position. We were assigned to patrol the coast line to look out for enemy aircrafts, ships, or unusual activities at sea.

Our service to our country cannot and should not be ignored at that time or any other time. We were willing to sacrifice our lives for the freedom that is always our nation's privilege. As you may be aware we were finally recognized for our service just last spring 2008 at Hooper Bay, AK; we had finally received our discharge papers and were told we can apply for veteran's benefits. And then just recently we discovered our pensions were impermissible which brings forth my purpose in writing this letter asking you to kindly please recognize us territorial guards with fairness and honor and to develop new legislation that allows our right to receive benefits that are well deserved.

It is known other veteran soldiers receive veteran's benefits with no restrictions. The territorial guards were predominately native and we live in a country where discrimination is not allowed. To brush us aside is neither proper nor patriotic. Please find it in your heart to bring honor to us territorial guards that are still surviving and to those that passed away and give us the benefits we surely deserve. Your time and efforts would be very much appreciated. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Andrew Brown Sr.
P.O. Box 32187
Mtn. Village, Alaska 99632
907-591-2735