

February 13, 2007

Paula Kerger
PBS President & Chief Executive Officer
PBS Office of the Corporate Secretary
2100 Crystal Drive, VA 22202-3785

Dear Ms Kerger,

I have heard of "The War," Ken Burns' seven-part PBS series that will air in the fall followed by releases of a major book, a soundtrack, educational packages and a DVD set; unfortunately a series that by design ignores U.S. Latino contribution and sacrifice.

In a recent event and discussion, one of the series producers commented , "'We're not really looking at individuals' ethnic-group experiences, except for Japanese Americans and African Americans because of their experiences,'" essentially discounting the Latino experience as minor or not worthy of comparable recognition.

With minimal effort Mr. Burns will find that our community, our parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, made and continue to make disproportionate personal sacrifices for this country. In the case of my family, they returned from World War II and the Korean War to find we were still denied serve at the same eastern New Mexico and Texas panhandle lunch counters which regularly served German Nazi prisoners of war held locally.

We are also very aware that Mr. Burns' earlier documentary on jazz failed to recognize the Latino contribution. Couple Mr. Burn's bias with the PBS plan to premiere "The War" on September 16th during Hispanic Heritage Month and we can see the ugly truth. We see a total and often deliberate disregard of the contributions that the U.S. Latino population makes to this country.

Why do Latino contributions continue to be excluded from PBS specials and other history series and books? We deserve and expect the Latino perspective included across the board in all PBS documentaries; and not simply as an afterthought.

PBS can not continue to deny us equitable and just treatment using our own tax dollars. I strongly encourage you to immediately intervene, meet with Latino leaders and move to permanently correct this continuing injustice.

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