

To Paula Kerger-PBS President & Chief Executive Officer

MS. Kerger first I want to say that I have a letter similiar to what I have to say here that I sent your office, and also included it in a press-release type form and sent it also to the following: Viet Nam Veterans of America (VVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. All of which I am a member of.

First and foremost I am sad,hurt,disappointed,frustrated and Angry at the decision that you and PBS have made in moving forward to air the World War Two Documentary without any Latinos included.

Not to bring out any ego or bragging rights but to give an example, I am proud to be a veteran. A disable veteran from the Viet Nam War which I volunteered to go and fight in, 1967 and 1968. I was proud to have been awarded my wings from jump school making me a Paratrooper in the US Infantry. After my tour in Viet Nam I was awarded the CIB (Combat Infantrymans Badge),two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. I have survived one cancer but undergoing treatment for another one which was because of my exposure to Agent Orange while in Viet Nam.

I have a website www.thewarisonotover.com where all this is public should anyone have questions about it. I bring this up because I share this honor and distinction to have served and along with thousands of other Latinos and veterans dealing with the after affects of war.

Except that as Latinos it is also compounded by the recent immigrant bashing,racism,discrimination and hostility towards the Lation population in this country.

By PBS doing this injustice of airing this documentary I believe you have entered into the same arena as others have taken against Latinos by not including us and trying to make us invisible. I know that this documentary is an Expression of his Art and feelings as you say and not of yours , I understand. After all Freedom to Express is one of our greatest Freedoms. But choice is also another one. You could choose to not air or wait until changes could be made.

As for World War Two and Latino veterans they were very decorated and just as the African American in many cases under sub-normal conditions such as discrimination and segegration but they still fought and served patriotically. My father was one of them. He served in the World War Two and was discharged out of the Navy after 23 years.

You know what really gets me its ironic how I would think Public Broadcasting would be different than regular tv which in some cases it is but in alot of cases isn't such as this.

I make my living as an actor in hollywood. But if you see hollywood movies about almost any wars, it is rare to see a latino soldier in it. That is what I have been a

member of NOSOTROS (nosotros.org)for over fifteen years. It was founded by actor Ricardo Montalban to help and create a positive image of latinos in the movies.

You know I go on and on about this but I just want to say one last important thing. Evertime PBS reaches out to the community for funding,donations and help I have been there. I bought several products last year when they had their music oldies marathon to raise monies and I gave because I really think that PBS is needed.

I know you have made your choice about this documentary and I have made my choice about PBS. That is if PBS continues with their decision and that is final I will no longer support PBS. As a matter of fact I will use this letter and the others I have received from other Latino Organizations that have been mass e-mailed and show and present them to everybody and anybody I can get to support me in a CAMPAIGN to no longer support PBS in any way. And to let them all know that PBS has also shown their immigrant bashing in the form of trying to keep us quiet.

I will send letters to all my Veteran organizations, Actor organizations, put it on agendas at any and all meetings I will attend and organizations and groups I am involved with and have been since being a Latino activist for over 35 years. As hard and determined as I fought in the war in Viet Nam I will also in this campaign against PBS to make things right.

Thank You for your time.

Rico Bueno