

SILVESTRE REYES  
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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March 7, 2007

Ms. Paula Kerger  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Public Broadcasting Service  
2100 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Ms Kerger:

As a long-time supporter of PBS and one who enjoys your programming, I write to express my concern with Ken Burns's 14-hour documentary "The War." As you know, this documentary chronicles the experience of a broad spectrum of World War II veterans. It has recently come to my attention, however, that "The War" fails to include the contributions made by Latino veterans who served valiantly during this historic conflict. As a Vietnam combat veteran of Latino decent, I am truly disappointed in PBS's decision to move forward with the documentary's release in September, despite numerous concerns from the Latino community, veterans and scholars.

The experiences of Latino veterans have been long ignored in the media and public discourse; and I am particularly disappointed that a network of PBS's stature would proceed with a broadcast that minimizes the contributions of Latinos during one of the most important events in history. In fact, "A Legacy Greater Than Words," the exhaustive work by Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez of the University of Texas, chronicles the experiences and contributions of hundreds of Latino World War II veterans.

I know PBS is committed to producing accurate, quality programming, and failing to include the experiences of even just one Latino veteran seriously compromises your work. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to air "The War" until the legacy of Latino veterans is appropriately honored in the film.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Silvestre Reyes".

Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress