

**Under the heading of: You've got to be kidding! or  
Irony of Ironies!**

Defenders of the Honor:

The arrogance of Ken Burns. Suddenly he champions Hispanics in his National Parks Documentary-- appearing on a panel called **"Public History and the Hispanic Heritage."** (See the story below.) **What makes Ken Burns an expert on Hispanic Heritage? Some would argue he's the anti-expert.**

Let us not forget he burned the memory of our WWII veterans. This is the same Ken Burns who said, in response to cries by Latinos to include Latinos: **"We need more unam and less pluribus" (Translation-- why do these Hispanics insist on inclusion?)** He also accused Defenders of the Honor of being **"un-American"** for insisting that Latinos be included in the original 14.5-hour documentary before we could see for ourselves what a great WWII documentary he had created, without a single Latino voice. Yes, he did end up including interviews with two Mexican American vets and one Native American. But it was conspicuous, in what one critic called **"passive-aggressive."**

See the story below, which appeared in the El Paso Times on Tuesday, April 21.  
**El Pasoans, what do you say to that?**

-- Gus Chavez, Defend The Honor

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns puts focus on United States national parks

By Doug Pullen / El Paso Times

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Filmmaker Ken Burns (Associated Press file photo)

EL PASO - Ken Burns, who has told the uniquely American stories of baseball, the Civil War, jazz and World War II in television documentaries, has turned his focus on the national parks and will come to the Chamizal National Memorial to promote them to local Hispanics.

Burns will appear May 27 at a pair of free, public events at the Chamizal, one of 391 sites operated by the National Park Service.

He'll show footage from the six-part, 12-hour "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," airing in September on PBS, and will join five Hispanic parks leaders, including two with El Paso roots, in a pair of public forums that day.

**"Those populations more often than not don't feel the**

**same sense of ownership that other people might," Burns said** from San Francisco, where he was to announce Wednesday - Earth Day - an outreach project that will take him to El Paso and 44 other cities.

Hispanics, blacks and Native Americans played a significant role in the creation and evolution system of natural parks and historic sites run by the federal agency, he said, but they historically underutilize the parks.

"Sometimes you go and English isn't the second language (you hear); it's German, French or Japanese," he said of foreign tourists who flock to places like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. "They know the great resources we have and what we want is more diversity in these places."

Burns and National Park Services leaders will participate in a forum, "Public History and the Hispanic Heritage," from 4 to 5:30 p.m. May 27 in the Chamizal National Memorial Theater.

They also will show clips from the film and discuss the agency in "National Park Service: Looking to the Future" at 7 p.m. that day in the theater. Forums like this are needed, said Michael Quijano-West, a Coronado High School graduate whose 26-year career with the park service started as a student intern at the Chamizal.

"Many of us have these discussions now at this level about how we can do what we can to make a difference, reach out to all minorities, because it's about their histories and their parks," said Quijano-West, 46, superintendent of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Massachusetts and a panelist in the coming forums.

**Burns said the initiative was not in response to Hispanic groups who criticized him for a lack of Hispanics in 2007's "The War."**

**"Not at all," he said. "This was in place well before that."**

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