

# The War Within

## ***PBS greenlights Galan documentary on Latino military contributions***

The war waged against Ken Burns and PBS in 2007 continues to bear fruit and the Defend the Honor Campaign coordinators applaud news that PBS has provided preliminary funding for a two-hour documentary, "The War Within," about Latinos in U.S. military service through the years. The film is tentatively scheduled for broadcast in September 2010.

"We have seen quotes in the press," Gus Chavez, co-founder of the Defend the Honor campaign, "that show how PBS is trying to reshape history again by asserting that 'the controversy surrounding 'The War' wasn't a motivating factor.' For one, John Wilson, senior vice president of programming for PBS, would like us to think that our protest had nothing to do with their latest funding of Galan's documentary on Latino fighting men and women.

"According to news reports, Wilson has said that 'Just from Galán's proposal for "The War Within," he could see it had potential as an intriguing and different story.' The fact is that our campaign opened their eyes wide with regard to the Latino community's potency," Chavez said.

Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, another founding member of DTH, said that it is understandable that PBS would deny any connection between Galan's documentary and the Ken Burns controversy of 2007.

"This is only the latest Latino documentary that PBS has approved, in the wake of the Ken Burns fiasco," she said. "Hector will be working with journalist Carlos Guerra of the San Antonio Express-News. Both men have very high standards and we will be very interested in seeing how the film takes shape."

Galán, an Austin, Texas-based documentary producer, was hired in mid-2007, after months of protests by Latino veterans and Hispanic organizations nationwide, to add interviews of three servicemen: two Latinos and one Native American, a total of 28 minutes tacked on to Burns' 14-1/2 hour epic.

Guerra, a columnist, was the first journalist to write about the Ken Burns controversy in the Feb. 9, 2007 issue of the Express-News. He wrote several more columns about the issue in 2007. Guerra will be writing the documentary.

Armando Rendón, another DTH coordinator, called the news "another victory for a community determined not to allow the media, especially publicly funded media, to ignore, distort or dismiss the role of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and other Hispanic peoples in the making of this country. We are determined to tell the truth and set the record straight."

"The Latino community continues to view Ken Burns multi-million dollar "The War" film as historically inaccurate and technically flawed" Chavez said.

helped make victory possible.

After an outcry led by Defend the Honor, documentarian Ken Burns added interviews with two Mexican American veterans and one Native American veteran.

The exclusion from the original documentary represented the longstanding, willful ignorance about the Latino community's contributions to our own country.

Defend the Honor is a network of individuals and organizations who advocate for the inclusion of Latinos into the nation's consciousness.

For more information, see our website at: [www.defendthehonor.org](http://www.defendthehonor.org)

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