



March 22, 2007

Ms. Paula Kerger
PBS President & CEO
PBS Office of the Corporate Secretary
2100 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Ms. Kerger,

The National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention (LCAT) wishes to express outrage at PBS' exclusion of Latinos from Ken Burns' forthcoming documentary, *The War*. As longtime supporters of public television we are disappointed that PBS has not been sensitive to this issue, despite the widespread expression of dismay emanating from the Latino community throughout the country over this act of discrimination by omission.

Our goal at LCAT is to improve the health of Latino communities through promoting knowledge about the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco on our youth, individuals and the community as a whole. A major challenge to our work is overcoming negative images of Latinos in the media and in the public discourse. This is now particularly challenging with all of the anti-immigrant rhetoric that is dominating the environment and being so recklessly and irresponsibly spouted by too many of our political leaders. Mr. Burns' clear blind spot on the Latino experience in this and his previous documentaries only perpetuates the harmful notion that Latinos have made no significant contributions to American society – which couldn't be further from the truth. Ignoring or eliminating their roles during a significant part of American history only feeds the xenophobic attitudes that we are witnessing too often these days.

We support the position of the Defend the Honor Campaign! We want PBS to delay release of the documentary to re-edited it and present an historically accurate account of the war by including the Latino experience in World War II – this would greatly contribute to achieving the universal experience he was trying to document. **LATINOS WERE THERE AND FOUGHT AND DIED ALONG SIDE MANY OTHERS DURING THAT WAR.** Anything less than this would mean PBS

contributing to and reinforcing what can only be described as a racially discriminatory situation that does great harm to the Latino community and its young people who are bombarded by false and negative images that deny the contributions of their elders.

We urge you to do the right thing and correct a wrong that would never happened if PBS was more diligent and serious about its support of diversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light beige background. The signature reads "Marilyn Aguirre-Molina" in a cursive script.

Dr. Marilyn Aguirre-Molina
President and Chair of the Board of Directors