

July 14, 2007

Letter sent to the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times, after KCET preview on July 11. Madrid Peraza was busy, writing letter to both newspapers, to KCET and to sponsor General Motors. She says, in an email to KCET, (cc'd to DTH):

“the preview gets a grade of "F" ..no, the clapping of 5 min. for the "Old Gentlemen soldiers" was majestic and that makes me give the night a "D"....NO Hispanics in the preview (unless you count the introduction of Mr. Arias) was shameful...”

re: Ken Burns 29 minutes for Hispanics

As a member of the PBS station in Los Angeles KCET I was invited to the preview of Ken Burns' "The War". I took my father, Mr. Raymond Madrid, who fought in WWII along with his brothers, Bonifacio (European theater) and Lorenzo (Pacific theater-KIA). The African- American and the Japanese-American soldiers were featured in the preview but not the Hispanic or Native American. Mr. Burns answered questions about this with a wait & see response, very curt- next question. My dad walked out of there disheartened. All he said was "I've seen all of this before".

Maybe he was referring to the fact that many years ago we watched the Thames Production of "World at War" and the NBC production of "Victory at Sea". Ken Burns' production uses the same film. I tend to think he meant that Ken Burns' production puts his service in such a low regard. Perhaps my dad thinks of the pain of getting his brothers remains back from Leyte in 1948 or the controversy of the burial of fellow Texan Pvt. Felix Longoria of Three Rivers, Texas. Ken Burns and his associates stated that there will be other "sister" shows on PBS that will give the Hispanic story. To use a baseball analogy that Mr. Burns might be very familiar with, the Hispanic experience won't make it to "The Show." They will be relegated to the Minors.

So we will see in late September what Ken Burns gives my dad in those 29 minutes, those precious 29 minutes.

Carol Madrid Peraza
Montebello CA