



Tejanos In Action
P.O. Box 19321
Austin, Texas 78744

Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. Representative, 21st Congressional District
300 E. 8th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Congressman Doggett:

Thank you so much for passing legislation renaming the South Austin Post Office in honor of the first to sacrifice his life for his country from this area, in the war in Iraq, Sgt Henry Ybarra III.

But the struggle for justice and equality continues and I beg your intervention on our behalf once more.

At this time we are faced with a great dilemma which attempts to conceal the loyalty and heroism displayed by our Hispanic WW II Veterans, as if they don't or ever existed.

We are outraged that Ken Burns excludes the contributions of our Hispanic WW II Veterans, again, as if they don't or ever existed. If Ken Burns is the historian he claims to be then he is surely aware of the contributions of our Hispanic Veterans and he shamelessly chose to exclude them. ? If he is the historian he claims to be, he would have known that Hispanics were awarded more Medals of Honor in WW II than any other minority.

Perhaps he intentionally omitted the Hispanic contribution and as a final blow chose September 16th to release his documentary, coincidence or adding insult to injury

From what I understand, he has used public monies for this WW II documentary, thus making it possible for our elected officials to intervene and either; prevent it from airing or insisting that it be revised to include the contributions of our Hispanic WW II Veterans

The concealment of Guy Gabaldons ethnic identity in the 1950s Hollywood movie "From Hell to Eternity" is an example of how our Hispanic history has been concealed, excluded or in this case out-right distorted. For thirty years we were led to believe that these heroic actions of Jeffery Hunter a tall white, blond blue-eyed Anglo, as he single handedly

captured over 1500 Japanese soldiers on the island of Saipan, was due to the bravery of the Anglo race.

Gabaldon died on the same day as the Australian Steve Irwin and for months, Irwin dominated the news. Guy Gabaldons death, one of WW II's greatest heroes, never made the news, perhaps because he was not a tall blond, blue-eyed Anglo after all, but a short Chicano from East L.A.

Felix Longoria, from Three Rivers Texas, sacrificing his life so that others could be free while having those very same freedoms he died for, denied in his own country. Private Felix Longoria was killed in the Cagayan Valley offensive in the Philippines.' His body was shipped back to his hometown, Three Rivers, Texas. The only funeral home in Three Rivers refused to allow Private Longorias body to remain in state because he was Mexican-American. Lyndon Baines Johnson, then a United States Democratic Senator from Texas, had to intervene. Johnson would help the family get Private Longoria buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

How much more blood do our Hispanic Veterans need to spill before we are accepted into a society in a land in which we are the descendents of the original inhabitants?

If we allow this current trend of historical exclusion to continue we may eventually have no history at all! As the Historian David J. Weber says we will continue to be "Foreigners in Our Native Land."

But it is Senator Dennis Chavez from New Mexico that describes our plight best of all. Upon the arrival of our Mexican-American Veterans after WW II, said, "As we march off to war we are Americans, yet upon our return we are merely Mexicans."

With your leadership, we ask that this letter be entered into the Congressional Record and call upon the Congress to pass in a joint resolution a call for a full and complete accounting of Hispanic-Americans in the annals of American History.

Sincerely,

Dan Arellano
Commander Tejanos in Action
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