



Attached is a letter USHCC leaders sent to Ms. Paula Kerger, President and CEO of PBS, due to an upcoming PBS World War II documentary's omission of the sacrifice and contribution Hispanics made in World War II.

April 9, 2007

Ms. Paula Kerger
President and Chief Executive Officer, PBS
PBS Office Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3785

Dear Ms. Kerger:

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), our Board of Directors, and the two million Hispanic-owned businesses we represent in the United States, we are writing to express our concern over the upcoming airing of Ken Burns' documentary "The War."

While we recognize the artistic desire of PBS and Mr. Burns to follow World War II through the eyes of a handful of families and individuals, we are disappointed that the contributions made by Hispanics to the war effort are not reflected at all in this film. We are confident that you are aware of the many statistics regarding Hispanics' dedicated and decorated service to the United States during the war in Europe and the Pacific. By the same token, we would like to remind you that close to 500,000 Hispanics fought for our country during World War II. This represented one out of every five Hispanics living in the United States at the time.

While we acknowledge that PBS has historically sought to provide educational documentaries and programs for all Americans, there appears to be no recognition of Hispanic contributions made during a very important time in United States history. As a reminder, PBS is supported by public funds, and Hispanics represent more than twelve percent of the Gross Domestic Product in the United States. Also, Hispanic-owned businesses continue to gain influence with each passing day. They are a growing economic engine that will soon be generating

more than \$400 billion in goods and services. Another vital fact is that Hispanic consumers spend an estimated \$865 billion a year.

Although Hispanic influence has exploded in recent decades, it does not and cannot overshadow the sacrifice and service Hispanics gave to the nation during World War II. Such an omission is not only disturbing, it is also unwarranted, and frankly, inexcusable. This is even more disturbing to those Hispanics who either served in our country's armed forces or are descendents of Hispanic veterans of U.S. wars.

We urge PBS to correct its failure to include the undeniable contributions made by Hispanics in the defense of our country's freedom. We fully support the efforts of the G.I. Forum in addressing our concerns and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



David C. Lizárraga
Chairman, Board of Directors
USHCC



Michael L. Barrera
President and CEO
USHCC