

Dear Ms. Harrington,

John M. Garcia, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services and President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, received the following email today concerning Ken Burns' World War II documentary. The topic of the email, a feared absence of the Hispanic/Latino experience in the documentary, may not have the same resonance in Maryland as it does here in New Mexico (not to mention Texas, California, etc.). Hispanics/Latinos have played a major role in the region's rich, honorable and unique military legacy (see: <http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino/>). We have not seen the Ken Burns' documentary, but if it is true that the unique flavor of the Hispanic/Latino experience/culture in World War II is not reflected in this major work, it would be an unfortunate and arrogant oversight by the producers and PBS. For a little perspective on the "brown out", please see this publication of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists:<http://www.nahj.org/resources/2006Brownout.pdf>.

Writing personally and behalf of New Mexico veterans, to include our Medal of Honor recipients, Bataan Death March Survivors, Code Talkers, Rough Riders, Buffalo Soldiers, and especially all of our fathers and grandfathers who served in World War II, I am writing to inform you of the existence of a proud and patriotic tradition of military service among Hispanics/Latinos, and to express a hope and expectation that Hispanic/Latino faces and our unique experience and contributions are reflected in the work.

Respectfully yours,

Floyd E. Vasquez, New Mexico