



For Immediate Release  
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### **MANA Expresses Outrage Over PBS and Ken Burns' Exclusion of Hispanics in World War II Documentary**

MANA, A National Latina Organization joins The Honorable Joe Baca, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Honorable Ciro Rodriguez, the Honorable Ken Salazar and the Honorable Robert Menendez in expressing disappointment and outrage over Ken Burns' documentary, "THE WAR", for failing to acknowledge the contributions of an estimated 500,000 Hispanics during World War II. The oversight is compounded by PBS' plans to air the documentary in September, the month in which Hispanic Heritage is celebrated in the United States.

"Hispanics comprised a significant portion of America's Greatest Generation. It is difficult to believe that in six years of research and filmmaking, the producers failed to discover any compelling evidence of Hispanic sacrifice. To be cast into the shadows by PBS and Ken Burns is shameful. Hundreds of thousands of Hispanics risked their lives for their country then and continue to do so today. All Americans should know that we fought valiantly in World War II and contributed greatly to our collective victory. For the sake of historical accuracy, PBS and Ken Burns should include the Hispanic experience," stated Alma Morales Riojas, National President and CEO of MANA.

MANA is calling on Hispanics across the nation to make their voices heard and protest PBS until we are acknowledged as an integral part of one of the most important historical events in human history, and given our rightful place in the telling of the story. One in every ten PBS viewers is Hispanic and a unified voice will send the signal that our hermanos and hermanas, who fought in World War II and helped secure the home front, will not be forgotten, despite PBS and Ken Burns' best efforts.

MANA also calls on all funders of this program to make their concerns known to the producers of the documentary and require that the content be made to reflect the entire scope of American service during World War II.

*Founded in 1974, MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA) is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA's mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Its four national goals are to: strengthen Latinas as community leaders; create vital Hispanic communities; advance public policy for an equal and just society; and grow and sustain a healthy organization. MANA achieves its mission and goals through its two premiere programs, the AvanZamos® Program, and adult Latina leadership training program and the HERMANITAS® Program for young Latinas.*

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