

9/11/94

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

"The Enola Gay and the National Air and Space Museum"

The Air Force Association is cautiously encouraged by the recent efforts of the National Air and Space Museum to begin to seriously address the shortfalls in the script detailing its planned 1995 exhibit, titled "The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II.

We view the August 31, 1994, script as the beginning of what we hope will be a continuing process of revision. Improvements have been made, but there are serious lingering structural, contextual and ideological issues that must still be addressed in cooperation with members of Congress, veterans groups, and military historians.

The National Air and Space Museum is a national treasure. As such, it has an obligation to tell the story of the end of World War II honestly, accurately, and in the proper balance and context. Adding a photo exhibit, tentatively titled "The War in the Pacific: An American Perspective," to the front end of "The Last Act" will provide greater context on Japanese expansionism, atrocities and aggression. But further improvements can and must be made in the main exhibit. In other words, the "American perspective" must be incorporated throughout.

Recent statements by museum officials have created positive expectations among members of Congress, veterans groups, the media and the general public. The National Air and Space Museum must be held to the highest standards. Anything less would be a disservice to the museum's millions of visitors, young and old alike -- those who have no recollection of the momentous events of World War II, along with those who were ready to make the ultimate sacrifice. To those who did give their lives for freedom, the museum has an even greater debt and obligation to tell history as it was.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9/11/94)

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