

**Congress  
of the  
United States  
House of Representatives**

September 9, 1994

**H. MARTIN LANCASTER  
NORTH CAROLINA  
THIRD DISTRICT**



**Mr. Robert McCormick Adams  
The Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution  
1000 Jefferson Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20560**

**Dear Mr. Adams:**

**I have followed with interest and concern the growing controversy regarding the display of the Enola Gay at the Air and Space Museum.**

**Recent press reports state that significant changes have been made in the planned exhibit which address some, but not all, of the problems raised by veterans. I am heartened by this report that the Museum Director has at last begun to respond to the complaints, but I hope that even more changes can be made before the exhibit is finalized.**

**Here are some historical facts which should govern the evaluation of the exhibit:**

**American airmen who performed their military duties by bombing Japan were patriots;**

**American leaders who decided to drop the atomic bomb did so in the context of an all-out war which was not sought by the United States, but was instead brutally initiated by the unprovoked Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;**

**Tens of thousands of Americans died in the Pacific theater at the hands of the Japanese;**

**President Truman and his advisors knew that an invasion of the Japanese home islands would result in horrendous casualties to Americans and Japanese civilians alike;**

**The atomic bombs brought an immediate end to a bloody conflict which could have stretched forward for months, even years.**

**The United States treated the defeated Japanese nation generously and helped put in place a democratic government and a thriving economy.**

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For a taxpayer-funded exhibit to contradict or fail to acknowledge properly these facts is unacceptable. It would be an insult to all the Americans who answered their country's call in World War II, but particularly those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom.

Again, I applaud the recent announcement of changes to the earlier plans for the exhibit, but I urge you to take personal responsibility to ensure that the final product accurately reflects the context of the Enola Gay's mission.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Martin Lancaster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

H. Martin Lancaster  
Member of Congress

HML:ebw