



Air Force Association

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An Independent Non Profit Aerospace Organization

July 21, 1994

Mr. Dan Stanley
Administrative Assistant
Office of Senator Bob Dole
141 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-1601

Dear Mr. Stanley:

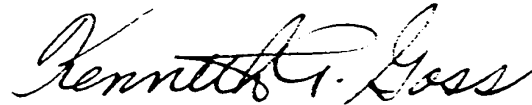
You may have seen material in the Washington Post and in other publications regarding the controversy over the proposed exhibit of the historic *Enola Gay* aircraft at the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum (NASM). Because you also may have received information from the NASM staff and other sources, the Association wanted to share our position and supporting information with you.

The Association believes, after hundreds of hours of research and analysis by historical and aerospace experts, that the proposed exhibit is politically biased and reinterprets history in a manner that distorts the role of the United States in World War II. The gravity of this distortion is exacerbated by the portrayal of the United States as irresponsible in the use of nuclear weapons to bring the War to conclusion thus saving both American and Japanese lives.

The Association recognizes and acknowledges that war against any nation for any reason is a grim prospect, hardly suitable for glamorization. Events in war, however, should be displayed in the overall context in which they occurred, not in isolation. According to John Correll, Editor-in-Chief of AIR FORCE Magazine, unless major, substantive revisions are made to the exhibit, Americans will be viewed as waging a war of vengeance against the Japanese; the Japanese will be viewed largely as victims of American aggression.

Repeated meetings and dialogue with the NASM staff and curators have resulted in minor modifications to the original script. AFA wanted to provide you with our report and analysis on this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth A. Goss". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kenneth A. Goss, Director
National Defense Issues