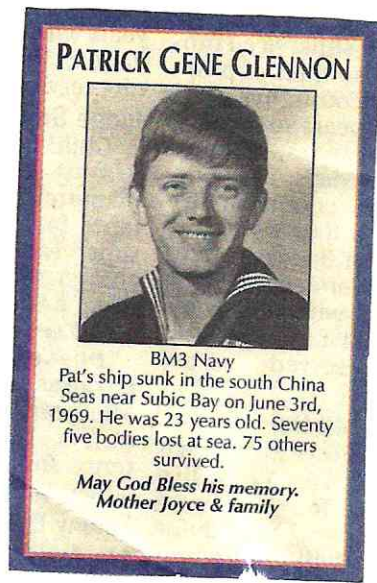


# USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) JUNE 3, 1969

USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) at sea April 1963. The ship was struck and cut in two by the Australian aircraft carrier Melbourne on June 2, 1969. The bow sank in two minutes with the loss of 74 of the 273 crew. SDAN: 1071675.



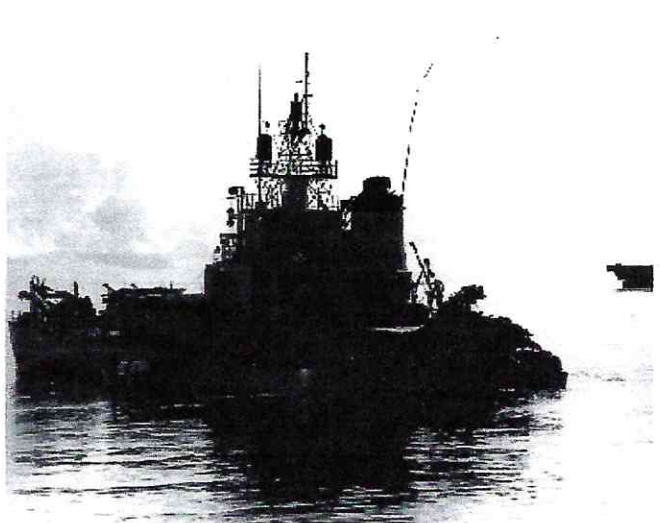
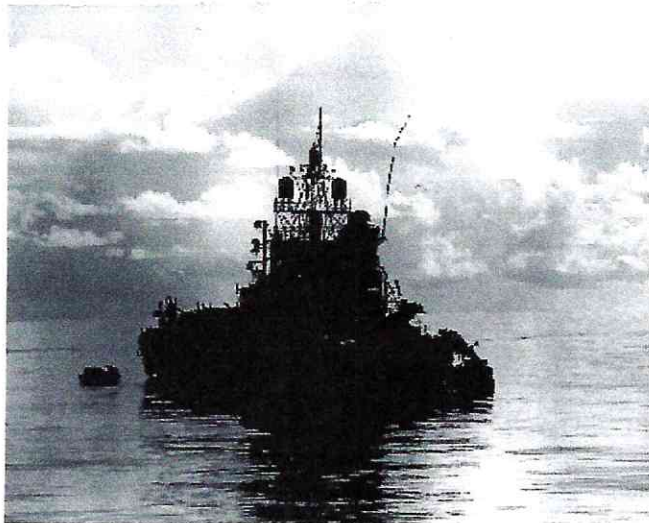
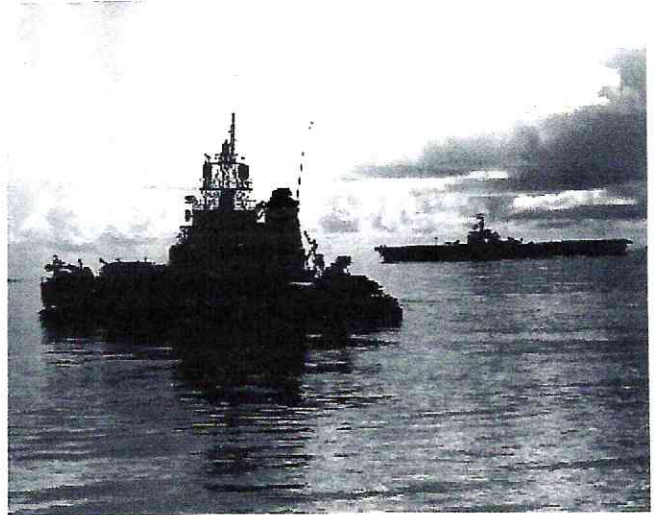
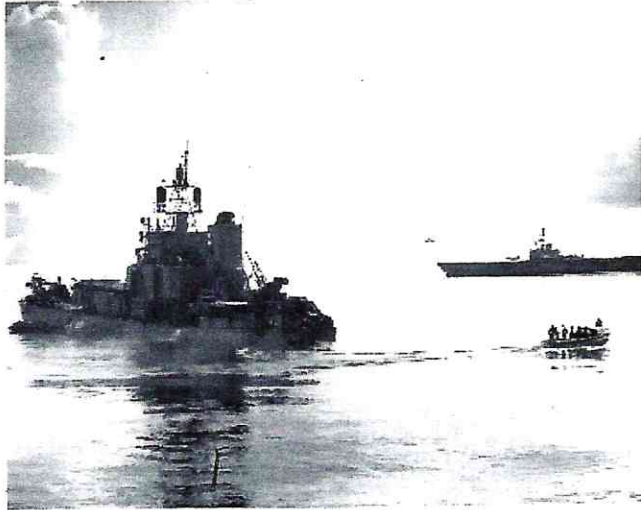


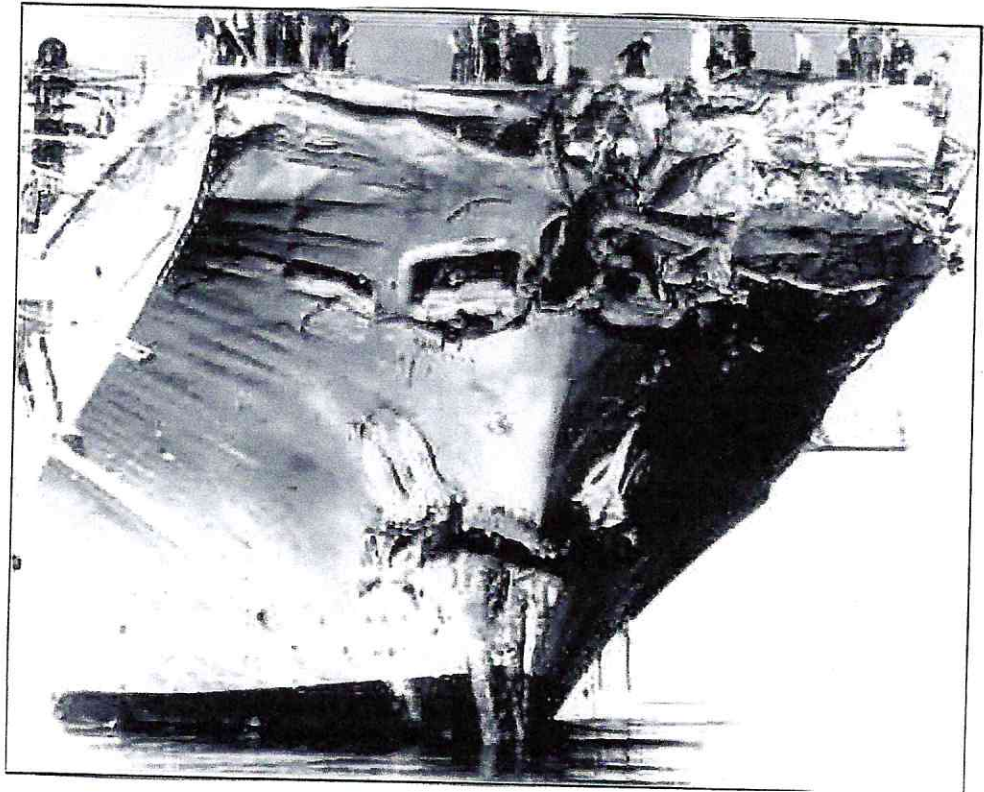
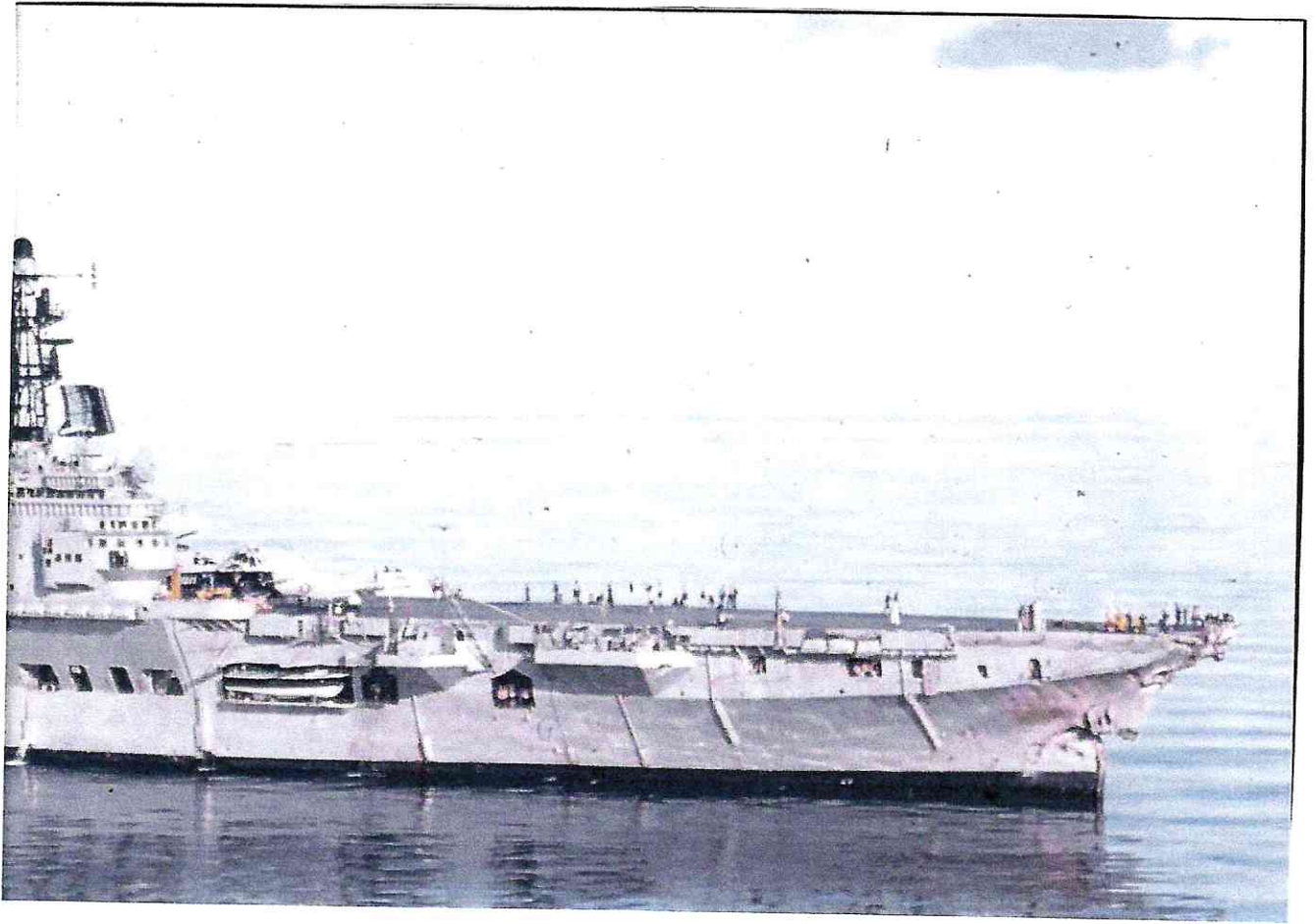
Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the  
restless wave, Who biddest the mighty ocean deep,  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee for those  
in peril on the sea . . .

. . . Navy Hymn











## H.R.3826 - USS Frank E. Evans Act

118th Congress (2023-2024)

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Schiff, Adam B. \[D-CA-28\]](#) (Introduced 06/05/2023)

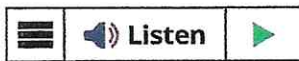
**Committees:** House - Armed Services; Natural Resources


**Latest Action:** House - 06/09/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** 

Introduced

Summary(1) **Text(1)** Actions(4) Titles(2) Amendments(0) Cosponsors(13) Committees(2) Related Bills(0)



There is one version of the bill. **Text available as:** XML/HTML [XML/HTML \(new window\) \(4KB\)](#) [TXT \(3KB\)](#) [PDF \(226KB\)](#) 

**Shown Here:**

**Introduced in House (06/05/2023)**

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3826

To provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. STAUBER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

## A BILL

To provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "USS Frank E. Evans Act".

**SEC. 2. INCLUSION ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF THE NAMES OF THE LOST CREW MEMBERS OF THE USS FRANK E. EVANS KILLED ON JUNE 3, 1969.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall authorize the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in the District of Columbia of the names of the 74 crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

(b) **REQUIRED CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the American Battlefield Monuments Commission, and other applicable authorities with respect to any adjustments to the nomenclature and placement of names pursuant to subsection (a) to address any space limitations on the placement of additional names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

(c) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.**—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall not apply to any activities carried out under subsection (a) or (b).

ff

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\* = Original  
 cosponsor

View Expanded

Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
<a href="#">Rep. Armstrong, Kelly [R-ND-At Large]*</a>	06/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]*</a>	06/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Stauber, Pete [R-MN-8]*</a>	06/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]</a>	07/18/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-28]</a>	09/05/2023
<a href="#">Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-4]</a>	09/08/2023
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<a href="#">Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-32]</a>	07/09/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Flood, Mike [R-NE-1]</a>	07/24/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]</a>	08/06/2024
<a href="#">Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]</a>	09/10/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]</a>	11/05/2024
<a href="#">Rep. Tenney, Claudia [R-NY-24]</a>	11/12/2024

### Party of Cosponsor

Republican [8]  Democratic [5]

### Cosponsors by U.S. State or Territory

California [4] Nebraska [2] Connecticut [1] Minnesota [1] Missouri [1] New Jersey [1] New York [1] North Dakota [1]  
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## USS Frank E Evans Testimony

In 1969 I was Aboard the destroyer USS James E Kyes DD787 along with the destroyer USS Frank E Evans DD754 were part of Destroyer Squadron 23 assigned to provide support to the in-country forces in South Vietnam. Late May or early some of us were ordered to leave our combat posts and join up ships from the south China Sea vicinity including ships from New Zealand, Britian and Australians and join a training exercise called Operation Sea Spirit. Few Americans or Australians are aware of the collision that claimed the lives of 74 American lives including 3 Sage brothers from a small town in Nebraska.

I was on the USS James E kyes as a 2nd class Signalman and I had be on the 8-Midnight. I had stayed up with the new watch for a while around 2am I went below and went to bed. I hadn't been there very long when general quarters sounded. I jumped up and was heading to my station thinking what in the world we were in friendly waters. As I approached my GQ post I bumped into the Captain, and he told me to knock off the reds and start scanning the water. Upon reaching my station I knocked off the filters of a search light. As soon as I turned the spotlight on beheld a sight I never imagined. The ocean was full of debris and a life raft was bobbing up and down with waves. Helicopters were flying in circles and then the light from one of them lit up the aft section of a ship which I found out was the Frank E. Evans. Earlier in the evening we traded positions with the Evans, just prior to a night plane launch. At 3am as we where turning into the wind to launch aircraft, the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne collided with the Evans cutting her in half and in less than 3 minutes the forward half sank to the depths along with it 74

sailors, (most asleep). Among those that died that night were Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class Patrick Glennan of Fessenden and FN Robert Searle of Grand Forks

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The names of the “Lost 74” are not inscribed upon the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall because they were killed outside the designated “Combat Zone” a arbitrary line used by the Department of Defense to determine if an individual was a Vietnam conflict fatality. The USS Frank E Evans DD754 Association disagrees with that decision. They believe the men gave their lives in defense of their country and they died in the Vietnam War.

Since the Memorials dedication in 1982 additional names have been added to the Wall, for example cases when errors and omissions were identified, and DOD continues to receive requests to add names. However, not all deaths associated with Vietnam War-era, meet the DOD criteria for their names to be placed on the Wall. In 2016, 2020 and as recently as 2023 some members of Congress have requested the DOD consider adding the names of the sailors who died in the 1969 collision at sea. DOD has considered adding the names several and each time found that the circumstances of the collision do not Meet the criteria to be added to the Wall.

Let's look at the key elements of this issue.



1. The date of the accident. **June 3, 1969 the middle of the war.** Prior to this date the USS Frank E Evans was providing gun fire support to forces inland of the coastal side of Vietnam. My ship was also there as well as numerous others doing the same thing.

2. **Ordered** to depart the area to participate in Operation Sea Spirit with 450 other ships from various nations.

3. Location South China sea approximately **100 miles beyond the imaginary line of the “combat zone”**. This line along with the dates of US involvement in Vietnam have **changed numerous times**. The South China Sea is one of 10 marginal seas within the Pacific Ocean. Every time reference was made to Vietnam is involved the word **Westpac** (an **all-inclusive word for the entire area**).

4. DOD States **not enough space** to add 74 names. **Since 1982 380 names have been added** to the Wall. Any **modification** of the wall by adding a separate panel for the 74 **would take Congressional action**

5. DOD States that **16 members of the Evans had no prior service in a combat zone**. **Most of the 58479 on the Wall had no prior service in combat zone**.

6. Why all the fuss? Maya Lin in her design proposal expressed the intent of the design as the names are on the Wall is meant to convey a **“SENSE OF OVERWHELMING**

**NUMBERS, WHILE UNIFYING THESE INDIVIDUALS INTO THE WHOLE” “AND FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL VIEWER TO COME TO TERMS WITH THIER LOSS.”**

The wall is meant to be a place to heal from the grief of losing a loved one. Grief is not a problem to be cured, it is simply a statement that have loved someone. While **MEMORIAL** object which serves as a focus for memory or something usually a person who has died or an event. Honoring the lives of those who were lost is at the heart of all. Memorials are very personal.

***WE ALL DIE TWICE. FIRST, WHEN OUR SOUL LEAVES OUR BODY, SECONDWHEN NO ONE EVER UTTERS OUR NAME AGAIN. (author unknown)***

This is so true!!!! As I will never forget the time when I was looking for family members of the fallen soldiers in Vietnam from ND. I spoke to a woman who when I mentioned the soldiers name she began to cry and said that I was the first person to mention her son by name. Her son had been gone since 68 and I called in 2015.

I thank you and ask for a yes vote. I will stand for questions



On June 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2025, it will be 56 years since the tragic loss of 74 sailors aboard the destroyer, USS Frank E. Evans DD-754. The USS Frank E. Evans was cut in half by the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne while on a SEATO training mission in the South China Sea. The accident happened just outside the Vietnam war zone waters.

The Frank E. Evans had been providing artillery support for the troops on the ground on Barrier Island, Vietnam. The ship was ordered to the Sea Spirit training mission and the ship was to return to the war zone upon completion of this training mission. During the training mission, the Frank E. Evans ended up in front of the aircraft carrier and was immediately cut in half with the front half sunk within 3 minutes. 74 sailors sank with the ship while the remaining sailors scrambled onto the Melbourne at 3 am in calm seas.

When the Vietnam Memorial Wall was unveiled and the names of the "Lost 74" were not included, it was heart breaking to the survivors, families and friends. It has been the mission of the Frank E. Evans Association to right this wrong since the wall was unveiled.

There were 199 sailors that survived that tragic accident, only 122 remain alive. The remaining survivors, families and I are asking for your support in getting these heroes names onto the Vietnam Memorial Wall for their brave sacrifice.

Lest We Forget the "Lost 74"

Thank you,

Richard W. Grant

Fargo, ND

Survivor of the USS Frank E. Evans