

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3005**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HCR 3005  
1/24/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the 119th Congress to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans.

9:14 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### Discussion Topics:

- Memorialize the lost crew.

9:14 a.m. Representative Schneider, District 21, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31246.

9:19 a.m. Senator Marcellais, District 9, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31101.

9:21 a.m. Jim Nelson, Director for North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31287.

9:35 a.m. Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30797.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

9:39 a.m. Representative Christy moved a Do Pass.

9:39 a.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y

Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

Motion passed 14-0-0.

Representative Schneider will carry the bill.

9:40 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HCR 3005 ([25.3023.01000](#))**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3005 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



HCR 3005

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/24/2025

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
Representative Schauer-Chair**

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

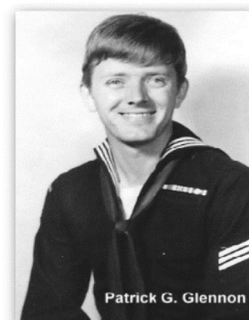
Please accept this testimony in support of HCR 3005.

Intent of this bill...

- Encourage 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, US Secretary of the Interior, and the President to take action and approve the names of the Lost 74 to be included on the Vietnam Memorial Wall located at the National Mall in Washington DC.

Need for bill...

- The crew of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Served in the Vietnam War prior to being ordered to participate in the Exercise outside the boundaries of the Vietnam War which resulted in this tragic collision.
  - Basically, they were “out of bounds” when the accident happened.
- The families of the Lost 74 deserve to have their loved one’s sacrifice remembered along side their brothers and sisters in arms on the national memorial wall.
- North Dakota is home to two members of the Lost 74
  - BM3 Patrick G. Glennon of Fessenden ND.
  - BTFA Robert J. Searle of Grand forks ND.
- It has been 57 years.



This bill may not affect many but for those that it does affect it will mean a lot and hopefully bring closure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

At around 0300 on 3 June 1969, *Frank E. Evans* was operating in darkness in the [South China Sea](#) between Vietnam and [Spratly Island](#) in a formation with ships of the [Royal Navy](#), [Royal Australian Navy](#), and [Royal New Zealand Navy](#). All ships in the formation were running without lights. The Royal Australian Navy [aircraft carrier](#) *Melbourne* was in the process of going to flying stations and radioed *Frank E. Evans*, then to [port](#) of her, to take up station as the rescue destroyer. This required *Frank E. Evans* to reduce speed and take up station on *Melbourne*'s port quarter. The [commanding officer](#) of *Frank E. Evans* was asleep in his quarters, having left instructions to be awakened if there were to be any changes in the formation. Neither the [officer of the deck](#) nor the junior officer of the deck notified him when the station change was ordered. The [bridge](#) crew also did not contact the [combat information center](#) to request clarification of the positions and movements of the surrounding ships.<sup>[10]</sup>

The conning officer on *Frank E. Evans* misunderstood the formation's base course and believed *Frank E. Evans* was to [starboard](#) of *Melbourne*. *Frank E. Evans* therefore turned to starboard, cutting across *Melbourne*'s [bow](#) twice in the process. *Melbourne* struck *Frank E. Evans* at a point about 92 feet (28 m) from her bow on her port side and cut her in two

at [8°59.2'N 110°47.7'E](#)<sup>Coordinates: [8°59.2'N 110°47.7'E](#)</sup><sup>[11]</sup> After the collision, *Frank E. Evans*'s bow drifted off to the port side of *Melbourne* and sank in less than five minutes, taking 73 of her crew with it. One body was recovered from the water, making a total of 74 dead.<sup>[12]</sup> Her stern scraped along the starboard side of *Melbourne*, and *Melbourne*'s crew attached lines to it. It remained afloat. Around 60 to 100 men were rescued from the water.



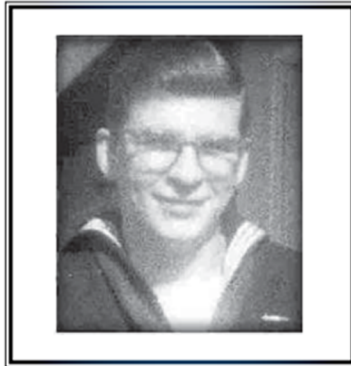
Sailors inspect damage to the U.S. Navy destroyer Frank E. Evans after it was cut in half in a collision with the light aircraft carrier Melbourne of the Royal Australian Navy in the South China Sea, 650 miles southwest of Manila, June 3, 1969. (AP)



## Patrick Gene Glennon

Born ..... 22 Aug 1945, Philadelphia, PA  
Parent ..... Joyce Rudel  
Siblings ..... Three Brothers, Two Sisters  
Education ..... Fessenden High School  
Enlisted ..... Fargo, ND  
Boot Camp ..... NTC San Diego  
Rating ..... Boatswain Mate 3rd Class

Patrick was born in Philadelphia. His family moved to Fessenden, North Dakota when he was young. He joined the Navy 10 May 1966. After boot camp he was assigned to USS GRIDLEY (DLG 21) where he was a Boatswain Mate striker. He remained there until 10 Sep 1968. He was received for duty on board USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) 3 Oct 1968. He was promoted to BM3 on April 16, 1969. BM3 Glennon was asleep in 1st Division at the time of the collision.



## Robert James Searle

Born ..... 22 May 1948, Grand Forks, ND  
 Parents ..... James & Arlete Searle  
 Education ..... Great Falls High School  
 Enlisted ..... Great Falls, MT  
 Boot Camp ..... NTC San Diego  
 Rating ..... Boiler Tender FN  
 Spouse..... Thelma Ruth Jones  
 Children..... Terry & Jerry (twins)

Robert enlisted in the Navy Reserves in 1967, graduated from boot camp, then Basic Propulsion & Engineering "A" School. He reported on board USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) 11 May 1968. On 30 Dec 1968, he married Thelma and they lived in Torrance, CA. BTFN Searle was on watch in the Forward Fire Room with three other men when the collision occurred; there were no survivors. His twin boys were four months old.

Senator Richard Marcellais  
Senate District 9  
Testimony for HCR 3005

Chairman Schauer members of the House Government Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9.

I am here today to testify in favor on HCR 3005 regarding the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the 74 lost crew members of the U.S.S, Frank E. Evans.

I am a proud Vietnam Veteran and wear a wrist ban to remind myself of the over 55,000 Vietnam Veteran brothers lost during the Vietnam War. I was stationed in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969 on June 3, 1969 when the U.S. S. Frank E. Evans collided with the HMAS Melborn in the South China Sea resulting in the deaths of 74 Vietnam Veteran brothers, including one from Fessenden and one from Grand Forks ND.

Chairman Schauer, members of the House Government Affairs Committee I am requesting a do pass on HCR 3005 and I will stand for any question



## INTRODUCTION

By Representative Mary Schneider

### **HCR 3005-Inclusion of the Frank E. Evans Sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, Austen Schauer, Chairman

January 23, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Schauer and fellow members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. I'm Mary Schneider, and I proudly represent the residents of central Fargo and West Fargo who live in District 21. I'm before you today to support the men of the United States Ship Frank E. Evans, and its 74 sailors who died on June 3, 1969. This bill is an effort to have their names inscribed forever in stone, as they deserve, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. For the North Dakotans on board, Patrick Gene Glennon of Fessenden and Robert James Seale of Grand Forks, the black granite of the Memorial Wall would be the grave marker they deserve, for their bodies were never recovered from the sea.

Looking at this bill, it tells the partial story of the crew of the Frank E. Evans and the tragedy that woke them from their sleep on a darkened ship and tossed them violently into the sea. It sets out the facts that make a compelling case mandating their names be listed on the Memorial Wall with others whose deaths were caused by the Vietnam War. Here are some of those facts:

- The Evans was part of combat support in and for the war in Vietnam;
- It was ordered to participate in a multinational training mission in furtherance of that combat support mission;
- The sea maneuvers and crash with the Australian ship, HMAS Melbourne in the South China Sea was a direct result of the war, and an indirect result of military training in support of the war, and our combat troops;
- After training, the ship and crew would have resumed their duty stations off the shores of Vietnam; and
- If it hadn't been for the war, and the sailors' assignment to combat support duty in Vietnam, sailors Glennon and Seale, with their drowned shipmates, might be with us, and their grandchildren, today.

For those of you here last session, you will remember the stories told by Jim Nelson who was part of the recovery team, and the stirring floor speech given by Chairman Schauer on behalf of the resolution at that time. But the story isn't finished, and the job isn't done. Our mission hasn't been completed. By passing this resolution in 2025, we will continue the fight to inscribe these sailors' names on the memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives because of the Vietnam war. Along with a national group and similar sponsors in other states, this resolution will seek the support of our slightly changed

North Dakota Congressional delegation, our new Governor, and a new national administration which could add the Evans sailors to the monument--as they deserve.

This story would make a compelling documentary, a gripping book, or a heart-wrenching movie, and maybe that's what it will take to make a change. But until then, we can keep fighting for these servicemen who fought for us.

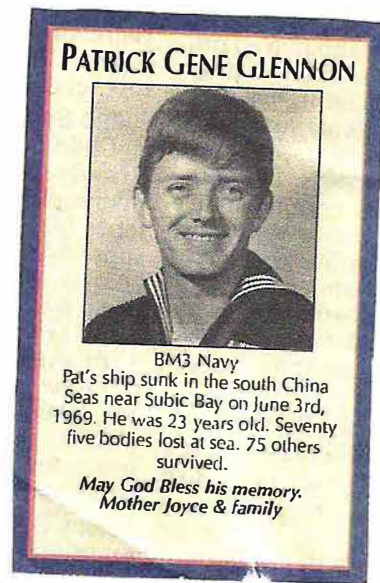
The sailors of the Frank E. Evans earned their right to share the Wall with their fallen comrades, to have their permanent place in history. They paid with their lives. So, our work to right this wrong is a small price for us to pay. Please pass this bill again on their behalf and send it on to those who can make the needed change. Like our combatants in every war--we should never give in or give up--until we can no longer try. Let's fight for these men like they fought for us. Please give HCR 3005 a do pass.

# 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.

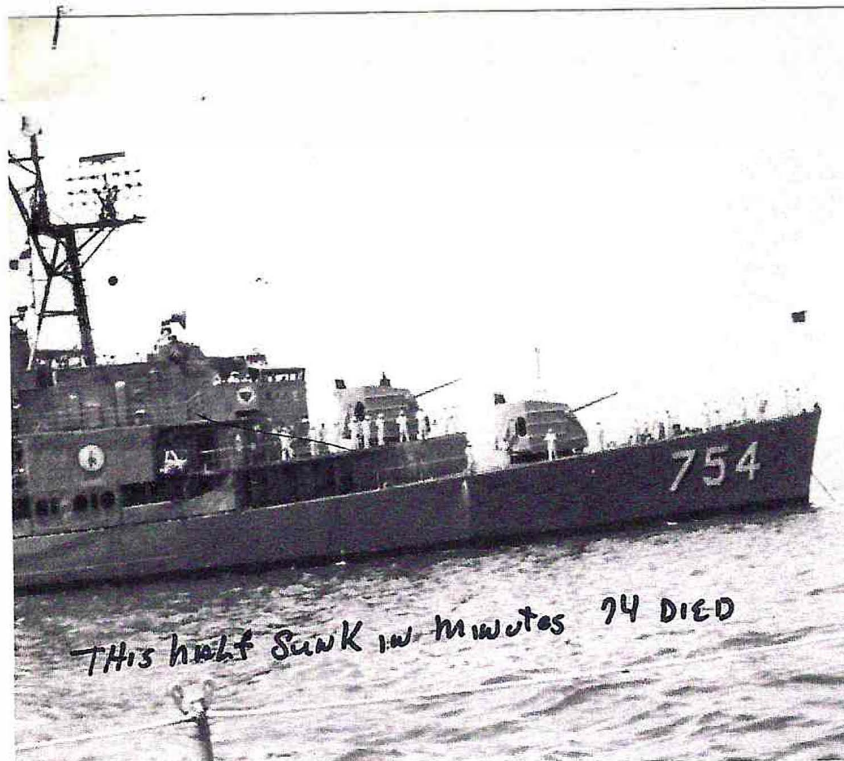




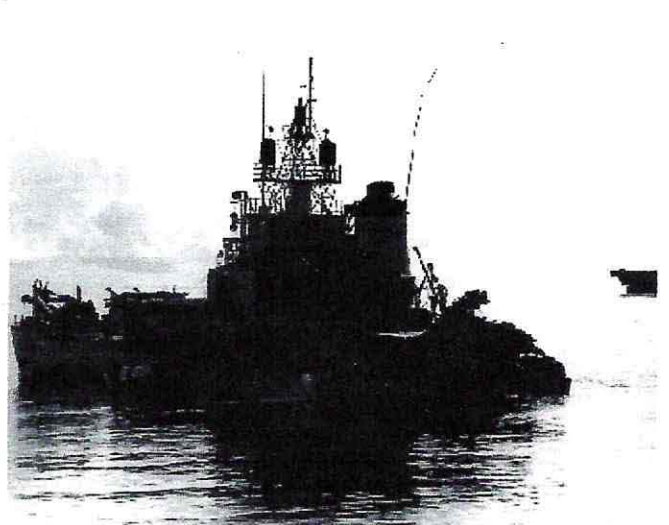
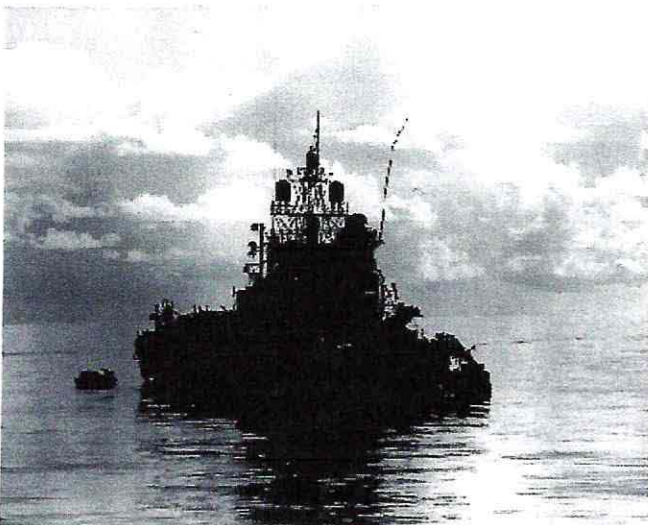
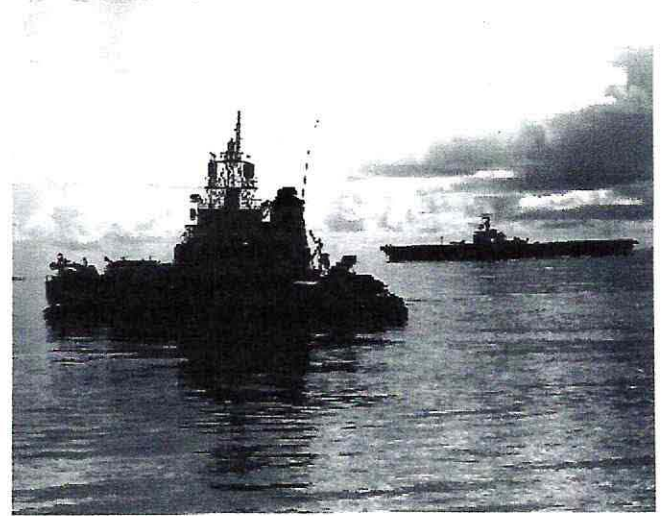
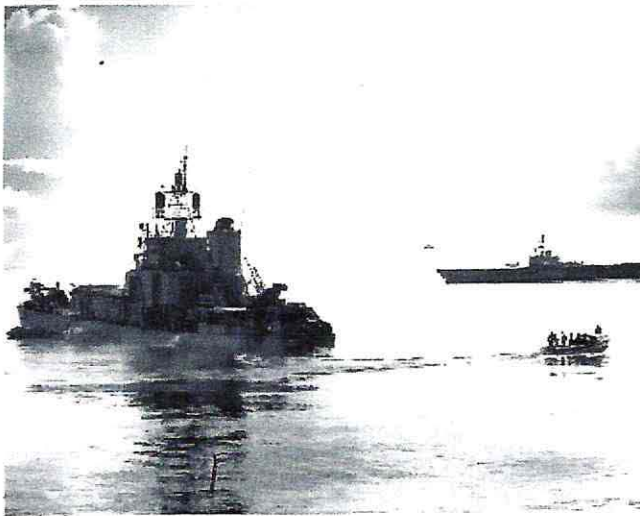


Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the  
restless wave, Who biddest the mighty ocean deep, Its own  
appointed limits keep; O hear us when we cry to Thee for those  
in peril on the sea . . .

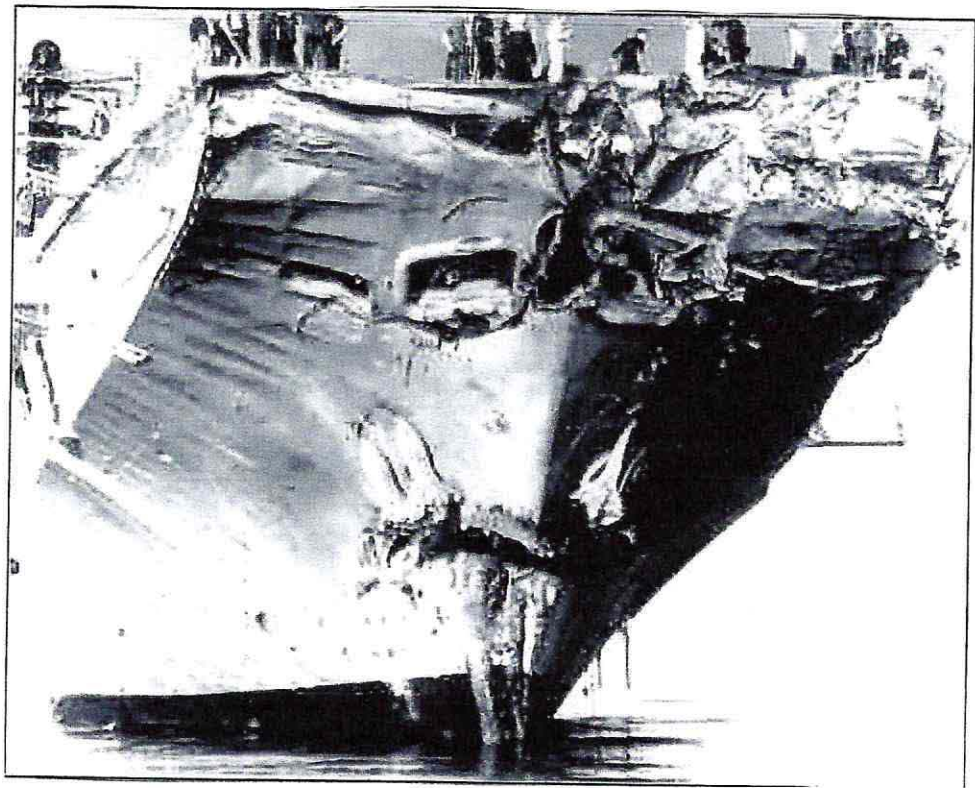
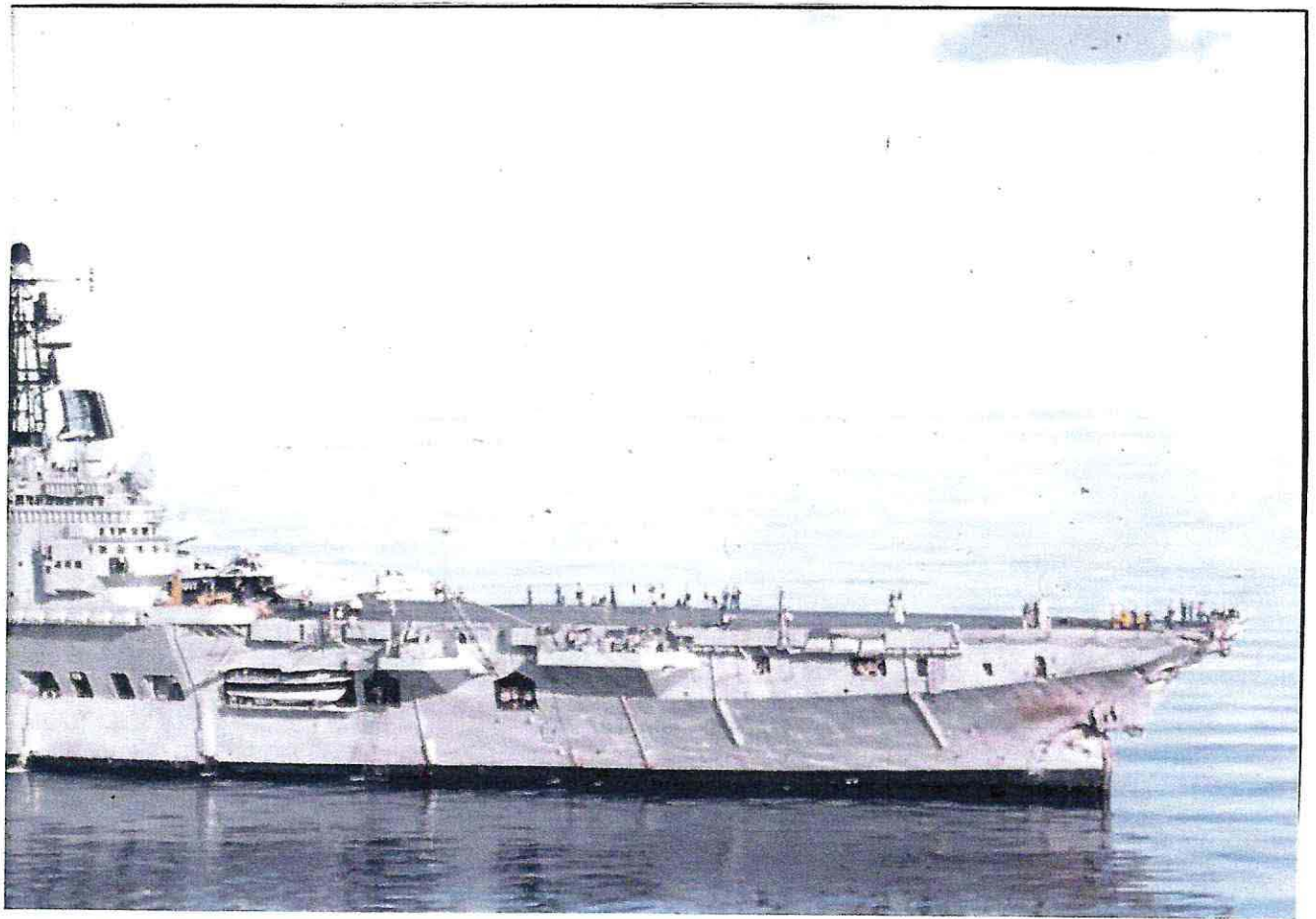
. . . Navy Hymn



*This ship Sunk in minutes 74 DIED*









etty Officer Third Clas  
Patrick G Glennon  
Vietnam Bridge









TO THE MEMORY OF ALL SAILORS WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY

FRANK E. EVANS DD754

MAY WE NEVER FORGET THE SHIP  
THE CREW WHO PROUDLY SAILED HER  
AND THOSE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE  
WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY



## 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).



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:

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Latest Action:

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Sponsor: Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28] | Cosponsor statistics: 13 current - includes 3 original

\* = 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
<a href="#">Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]</a>	06/07/2024
<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]  
Washington [1]

## 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 3rd class Signzman and I had been on the 8-Midnight. I had stayed with the new watch for a while as It was bread baking night and the cook always brought up a fresh loaf with butter, Nothing like fresh bread. Love it still today. At around 2am I went below and went to bed. I had just fallen asleep when general quarters sound. I jumped up and was heading to my station thinking what in the world we were in friendly waters. As I approached my station 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 and beheld a sight I never imagined. The ocean was full of debris boxes 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 and the I Frank E Evans. It had been earlier that we traded positions with the Evans, just prior to a night plane launch. At 3am as we were turning into the wind to launch planes, the HMS Melbourne collided with the Evans cutter her in half and in less than

3 minute<sup>s</sup> sank to the depths taking with it 74 sailors, (most asleep) including Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class Patrick Glennan Fessenden and Robert Searle Grand Forks. Only 19 survived from the bow portion of the ship.

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, SECOND WHEN 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

**2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3005**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3005

2/20/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans.

9:44 a.m. Chairman Luick opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

### Discussion Topics:

- Information and history on the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans
- Remembrance and honoring of veterans and lost soldiers
- Combat zone designation
- DOD criteria for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall inscribes
- Circumstances surrounding incident
- Purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

9:45 a.m. Representative Mary Schneider, District 21, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38218.

9:48 a.m. Senator Richard Marcellais, District 9, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38022.

9:50 a.m. Jim Nelson, Director for the ND Legislative Veterans Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38199.

10:03 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

10:03 a.m. Senator Myrdal Moved a Do Pass.

10:03 a.m. Senator Marcellais seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee  
HCR 3005  
2/20/25  
Page 2

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

10:04 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

*Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HCR 3005 ([25.3023.01000](#))**

**Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3005 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

Senator Richard Marcellais  
Senate District 9  
Testimony for HCR 3005

Chairman Luick members of the Senate Agriculture Veterans Affairs Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9.

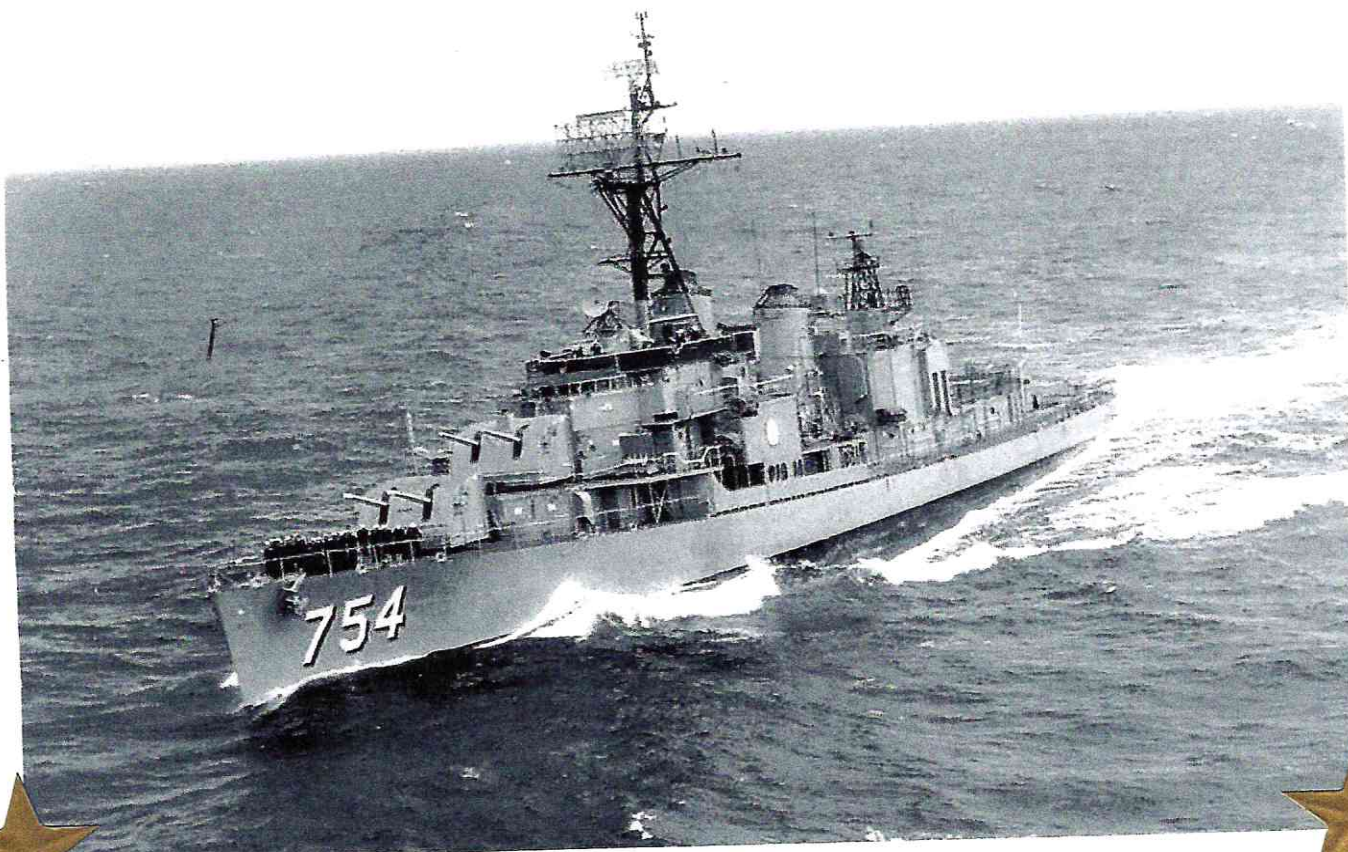
I am here today to testify in favor of HCR 3005 regarding the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the 74 lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans.

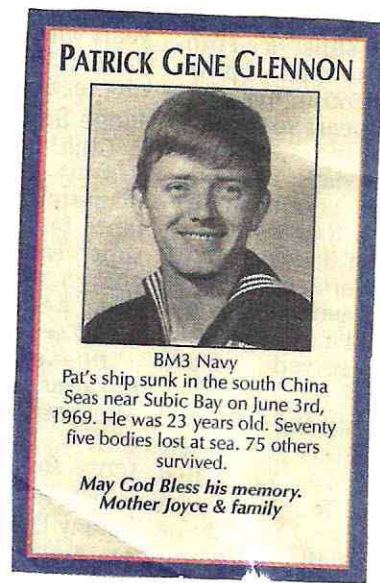
I am a proud Vietnam Veteran and wear this wrist ban to remind myself of the over 55,000 Vietnam Veteran Brothers & sisters lost during the Vietnam War. I was stationed in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969 on June 3, 1969 when the U.S.S. Frank E Evans collided with the HMAS Milborn in the South China Sea resulting in the deaths of 74 Vietnam Veteran brothers including one from Fessenden and one from Grand Forks ND.

Chairman Luick, members of the Senate Agriculture Veterans Affairs Committee, I am requesting a do pass on HCR 3005 and I stand for any question.

# 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.





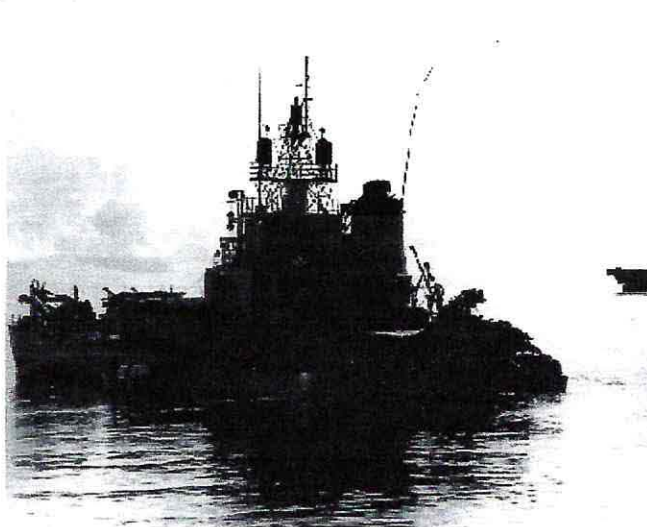
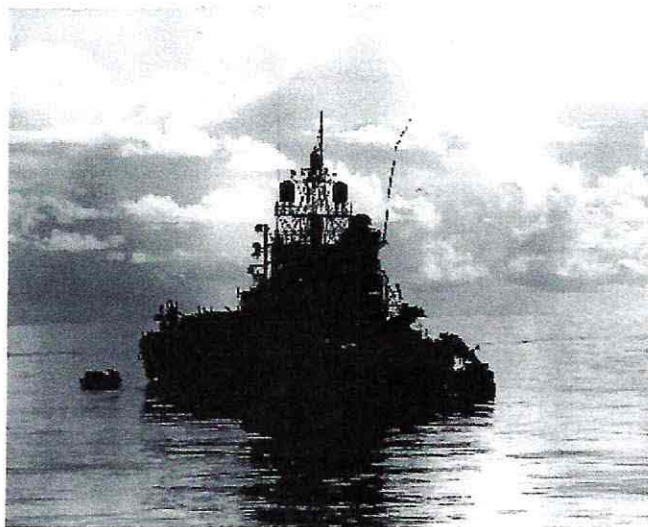
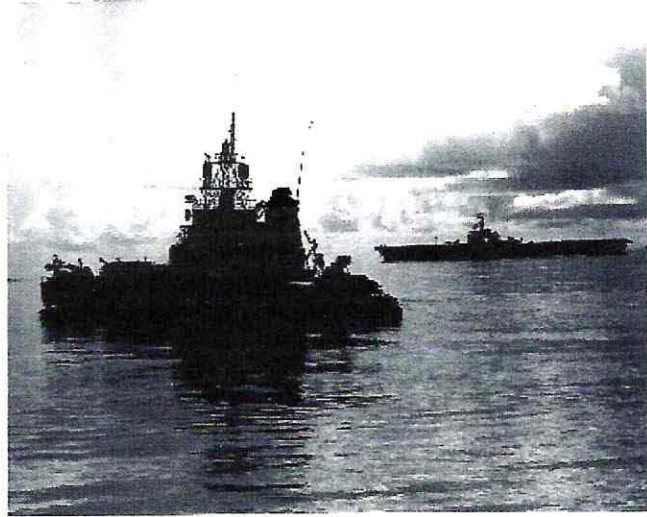
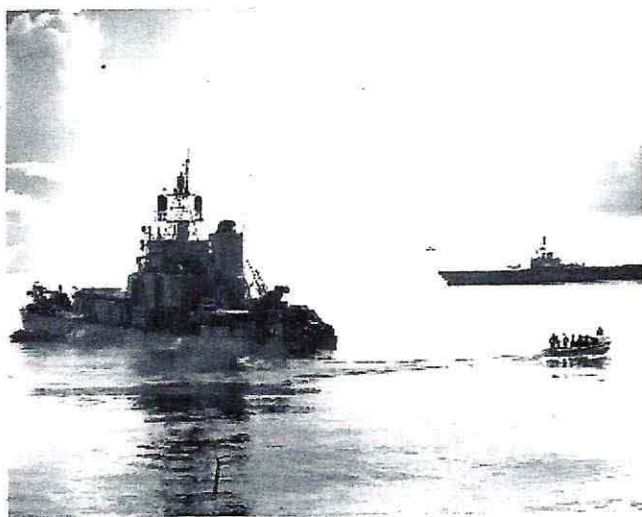
Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the  
restless wave, Who biddest the mighty ocean deep, Its own  
appointed limits keep; O hear us when we cry to Thee for those  
in peril on the sea . . .

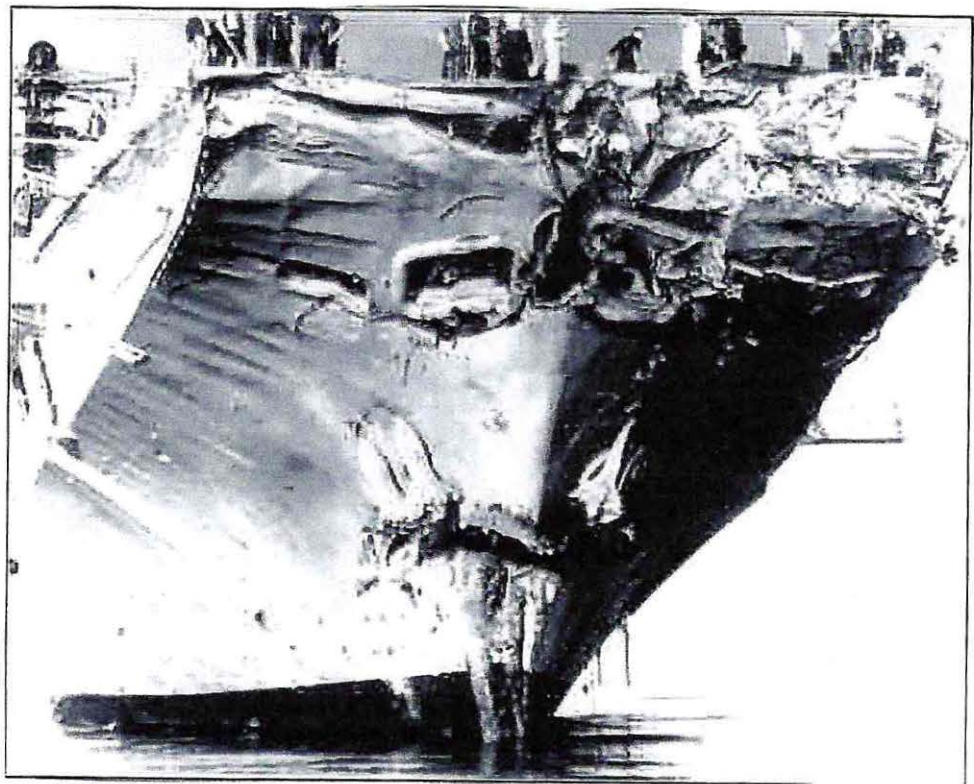
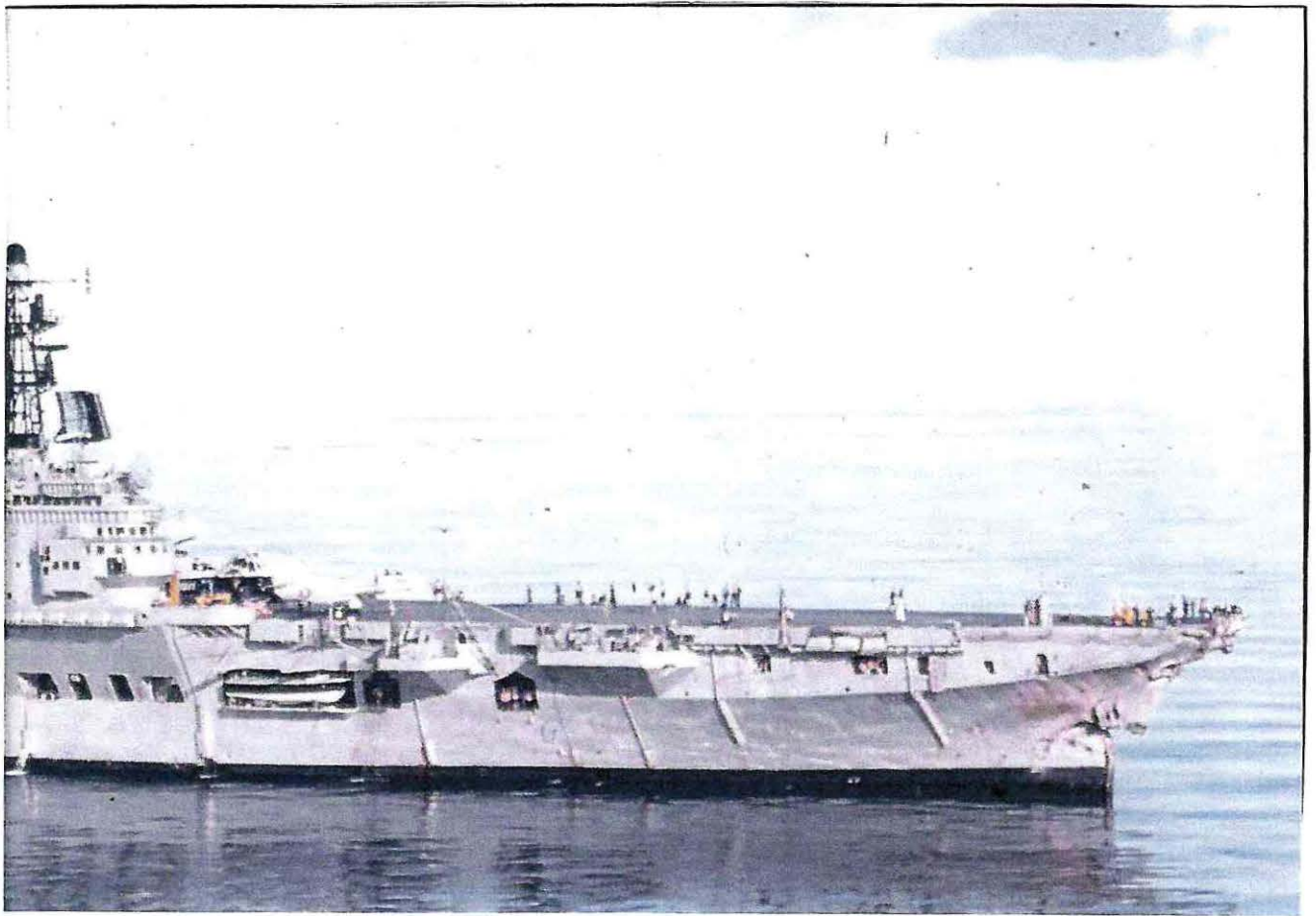
. . . Navy Hymn



THIS SHIP SUNK IN MINUTES 74 DIED










## 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

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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



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

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Committees:

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

Sponsor: Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28] | Cosponsor statistics: 13 current - includes 3 original

\* = Original  
cosponsor

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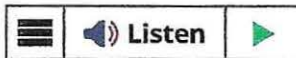
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[View](#) [Expanded](#) 

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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 Signelman 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, SECOND WHEN 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



## Introduction

By Representative Mary Schneider

### **HCR 3005-Inclusion of the Frank E. Evans Sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**

#### **Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**

**Larry Luick, Chairman, and Janne Myrdal, Vice Chairman**

February 20, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Luick, Vice Chairman Myrdal, and distinguished members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee:

House Continuing Resolution 3005 may sound familiar to you. Last session we passed a joint Senate-House resolution to have the names of the 74 sailors of the *United States Ship Frank E. Evans*, who died on June 3, 1969, inscribed forever in stone, as they deserve, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

For the North Dakotans on board, Patrick Gene Glennon of Fessenden and Robert James Seale of Grand Forks, the black granite of the Memorial Wall would be the grave marker they deserve, for their bodies were never recovered from the sea.

Looking at this resolution, it tells the partial story of the crew of the *Frank E. Evans* and the tragedy that woke them from their sleep on a darkened ship and tossed them violently into the sea. It sets out the facts that make a compelling case mandating their names be listed on the Memorial Wall with others whose deaths were caused by the Vietnam War. Here are some of those facts from the resolution:

- The *Evans* was part of combat support in and for the war in Vietnam, and it had participated in active combat;
- The ship was ordered from that combat to temporarily participate in a multinational training mission in furtherance of that combat support mission;
- The sea maneuvers in the South China Sea, and crash with the Australian ship, *HMAS Melbourne*, that basically cut the ship in half, was a direct result of the war, and an indirect result of military training in support of the war and our combat troops;
- After training, the ship and crew would have resumed their duty stations off the shores of Vietnam; and
- If it hadn't been for the war, and the sailors' assignment to combat support duty in Vietnam, sailors Glennon and Seale, with their drowned shipmates, might be with us, or playing with their grandchildren, today.

You may remember from last session a review of testimony from a North Dakota veteran who was part of the ship and sailors' recovery team, and you may have read in testimony the stirring floor speech given by the House GVA Chairman on behalf of the resolution at that time.

But the story isn't finished, and the job isn't done. Our mission hasn't been completed. By passing this resolution in 2025, we will continue the fight to inscribe these sailors' names on the memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives because of the Vietnam war. Along with a national group and similar sponsors in other states, this resolution will seek the support of our slightly changed North Dakota Congressional delegation, our new Interior Secretary, our new Governor, and a new national administration which could add the Evans sailors to the monument.

The sailors of the *Frank E. Evans* earned their right to share the Wall with their fallen comrades, to have their permanent place in history. They paid with their lives. So, our work to right this wrong is a small price for us to pay. Please pass this bill again on their behalf and send it on to those who can make the needed change. Like our combatants in every war--we should never give in or give up--until we can no longer try. Let's fight for these men like they fought for us. Please join the unanimous support of the House GVA Committee and the 88-0 House approval to finally secure the recognition these servicemen deserve.