

House Resolution 18 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY KRESSIG

1 A Resolution encouraging the United States Department
2 of Defense to include the names of the fallen
3 sailors of the destroyer USS Frank E. Evans (DD-754)
4 on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

5 WHEREAS, on March 29, 1969, the officers and men
6 of USS Frank E. Evans (DD-754) departed Long Beach,
7 California, for the Western Pacific to carry out the
8 operational orders of their Commander in Chief during a
9 time of war with North Vietnam; and

10 WHEREAS, on June 3, 1969, USS Frank E. Evans
11 (DD-754), while on an allied naval exercise during the
12 Vietnam War, collided with the Australian aircraft
13 carrier, HMAS Melbourne (R-21) in the South China Sea,
14 near the coast of Vietnam; and

15 WHEREAS, the collision severed the ship into two
16 sections, with the forward section sinking in less
17 than three minutes, taking the lives of 74 American
18 sailors; and

19 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces
20 who died during the Vietnam War have been memorialized
21 by placing their names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
22 in Washington, D.C., if they died within the combat
23 zone; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense
25 maintains the men who died as a result of the USS Frank
26 E. Evans (DD-754) collision do not meet the criteria
27 for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial since
28 the accident occurred outside the combat zone, and

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1 continues to deny the placement of the names of the
2 lost 74 sailors on the memorial; and

3 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War combat zone boundaries were
4 ill defined and have been changed from time to time,
5 and should not be the defining reason to exclude the
6 names of the lost sailors from the Vietnam Veterans
7 Memorial; and

8 WHEREAS, other members of the United States Armed
9 Forces who died outside the Vietnam War combat zone
10 have had their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans
11 Memorial; NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
13 the names of the 74 sailors from USS Frank E. Evans
14 (DD-754) should be included on the Vietnam Veterans
15 Memorial, and that the House of Representatives fully
16 supports an immediate favorable decision by the United
17 States Department of Defense to make an exception to
18 its criteria and include those names on the Vietnam
19 Veterans Memorial.