

DRAFT RESOLUTION 15-38

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF USS FRANK E. EVANS

SOURCE: IA

WHEREAS, on the 29th of March, 1969, the officers and men of **USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD754)** departed Long Beach for the Western Pacific to carry out the operational orders of their Commander in Chief during a time of war with the North Vietnamese government; and

WHEREAS, the **USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754)** was ordered to withdraw from combat operations to participate in an allied Naval Exercise with the **HMAS MELBOURNE (R21)** and return to combat operations when the exercise was completed, and

WHEREAS, at 0315 hours on June 3, 1969, the **USS Frank E. Evans (DD754)**, while participating in the aforementioned exercise, was in a collision with the Australian aircraft carrier, **HMAS MELBOURNE (R 21)**, in the South China Sea, near the coast of Vietnam, and

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

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces who died during the Vietnam War have been memorialized by placing their names of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. so long as they died within the war zone; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense maintains the **USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD754)** does not meet the criteria since the accident occurred outside the war zone, and continues to deny placing the names of the lost 74 sailors on the Vietnam Memorial, and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam war zone boundaries were created for tax purposes, were ill defined and have been changed from time to time, the war zone boundaries should not be the defining reason to exclude the names of the lost 74 sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

WHEREAS, other members of the United States Armed Forces who died outside the Vietnam War Zone have had their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a great injustice continues to prevail the Department of Defense to exclude the 74 sailors from being added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and that AMVETS fully supports an immediate favorable decision by the Department of Defense to add the names of the 74 sailors who lost their lives in the aforementioned collision with the **HMAS MELBOURNE (R 21)** to The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.