

**2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3008**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

HCR 3008  
1/26/2023

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.

Vice Chairman Satrom called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider present. Rep. Hoverson and Rep. Louser not present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Story of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans
- U.S. Code for the Vietnam War Memorial wall recognition
- U.S. Congressional delegation
- Verification of names

Representative Schauer introduced HCR 3008 with supportive testimony. #17112

Jim Nelson, Director for Veteran's Affairs with North Dakota Legislative Council, offered testimony in support #17113

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, offered testimony in support. # 15658

Vice Chairman Satrom adjourned the meeting at 11:14 AM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

HCR 3008  
2/2/2023

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.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 4:09PM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider present. Rep. Louser not present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work
- Amendment

Rep. Schauer called for a discussion on HCR 3008.

Rep. Hoverson moved to amend HCR 3008 with LC # 23.3024.01001.

Seconded by Rep. Vetter.

### Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	AB
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 12-0-1.

Rep. Vetter moved a do pass as amended on HCR 3008.

Seconded by Rep. Schneider

Roll Call Vote:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	AB
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 12-0-1.

Chairman Schauer carrier.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:13PM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

98  
2-2-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3008

Page 1, line 6, after "sailors" insert ", including Patrick Gene Glennon of Fessenden, North Dakota, and Robert James Seale of Grand Forks, North Dakota"

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3008: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3008 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, after "sailors" insert ", including Patrick Gene Glennon of Fessenden, North Dakota, and Robert James Seale of Grand Forks, North Dakota"

Renumber accordingly

**2023 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3008**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3008  
3/2/2023

A concurrent resolution urging the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to take favorable action on S. 849 and H.R. 7972 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

9:29 AM Vice Chairman Myrdal opened the meeting. Senators Hogan, Myrdal, Weston, Weber, and Lemm were present.  
Members absent: Chairman Luick

### Discussion Topics:

- U.S.S Frank E. Evans
- Vietnam war
- Committee action

9:30 AM Representative Schauer, North Dakota State Representative, District 13, introduced the bill and verbally testified in favor.

9:36 AM Jim Nelson, Legislative Director, ND Veterans Legislative Council, verbally testified in favor.

9:51 AM Senator Weber moved DO PASS HCR 3008  
9:51 AM Senator Lemm seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed 6-0-0. DO PASS HCR 3008

9:52 AM Senator Weber to Carry

9:52 Vice Chairwoman Myrdal closed the hearing on HCR 3008.

### Additional written testimony:

Lonnie Wangen, Director, North Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs, testified in favor #21312

*Dave Owen, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3008, as engrossed: Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HCR 3008 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

**TESTIMONY**

**HCR 3008**

HCR 3008

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/26/2023

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<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 3008.

Intent of this bill...

- Encourage 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to take action and approve S 849 and HR 7972 to include the names of the Lost 74 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 was home to one member of the Lost 74 Patrick G. Glennon of Fessenden ND.

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](#)Coordinates: [8°59.2'N 110°47.7'E](#).<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.

Greetings to Mr. Vice Chairman and members of the House GVA Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, representing District 13 in West Fargo. I come before you today seeking your support of **Concurrent Resolution 3008**.

This is a sad and tragic story.

In late May of 1969, an Australian aircraft carrier, the **Melbourne**, led by Commanding officer **John Stevenson**, began a South China Sea exercise.

The **Melbourne** was assigned five escorts: three US destroyers and two US frigates.

One of the destroyers was the **USS Frank E. Evans** carrying a crew of 273 sailors.

Prior to the start of the training, Commander Stevenson had dinner with the five escort captains.

Stevenson emphasized **safety** because five years prior in 1964, the **Melbourne** was involved in a collision with another destroyer sinking the ship and killing 82 men aboard.

Stevenson talked about the incident at dinner.

His message was clear; **Be careful. Be Safe.**

Despite the warnings, a **near miss** happened in the early hours of May 31.

The escort ships were again warned about the dangers of operating near the **Melbourne** and were told to stay at least **two to three thousand** yards away.

**Be careful. Be safe.**

But the warnings did not lead to safety.

Just four days later, in the early morning of June 3, the **Frank E. Evans** made a fatal mistake and turned into the on-coming **Melbourne**.

Commanding Officer Stevenson ordered the carrier "**hard to port**," signaling the turn by both **radio** and **siren blasts** but it was too late.

The **Melbourne** hit the **Evans** at 3:15 am, cutting the destroyer in half.

The **Evans'** bow section **sank** within three minutes.

Boats, life-rafts, and lifebuoys were deployed.

Mooring lines were used to latch the two ships together to evacuate survivors.

Members of **Melbourne's** crew dived into the water to rescue overboard survivors **close** to the carrier while the carrier's boats and helicopters collected those farther out.

Other escort vessels arrived and did what they could.

In the end, **74 sailors** were killed...many of whom were trapped inside the **Evans'** bow when it plunged into the sea.

Only one body was recovered after 15 hours of searching.

It was later learned that the **Evans'** commanding officer was asleep in his quarters and the vessel was held by two Lieutenants; one who had failed the qualification exam to **stand watch**...and the other who was at sea *for the first time*.

In 2018, Sen. Cramer, was asked to sponsor a bill to place the names of the 74 **Evans'** sailors on the **Vietnam War Memorial** as the destroyer **had been** serving off the coast of Vietnam supporting our troops prior to the South China Sea exercise.

However, the bill sits in neglect.

Leaders of the Vietnam Wall say the deaths happened **outside** the combat zone even though US Code says (Lines 14-16 in the Resolution), "Veterans who died as a direct or **indirect result** of military operations in Southeast Asia are eligible for inclusion on the memorial wall."

Wouldn't it be wonderful for the families of those 74 sailors to receive the honor they deserve?

If passed, **Concurrent Resolution 3008** would be sent to the President, the Majority and Minority leaders in the U.S. Senate and House and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation asking for **Wall recognition** for these sailors and their families.

Mr. Vice Chairman and committee members, I ask for your support in approving **Concurrent Resolution 3008**.

I stand open for questions.



## HCR 3008

June 3, 1969: is my day of infamy. On that day 3am in the morning I was serving aboard the USS James E Kyes DD787. Just days earlier my Squadron was off the coast of Vietnam providing support to troops on the ground. Our Squadron consisted of 4 other ships and an aircraft carrier. One of those ship was the USS Everette F Evans DD754. A few days before June 3<sup>rd</sup> we as a Squadron were order to the South China sea to participate in an exercise with navies from the area including the Australian Navy. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we were information with all these other naval unites and we were conducting aircraft operation with the American carrier UUS Kearsarge and the Australian carrier HMS Melbourne. Around midnight of June 2 we began to align the ships in order to conduct night flight operations with the HMS Melbourne. As the formation began to turn into the wind, the Melbourne collided with the Evans and cutting her in half. 74 sailors lost their that night, only one body was discovered. My ship was one of the first to reach the Evans and search for surviors.

In 2018 at our AMVETS State convention then Representative Cramer reported that a bill was being worked to place the names of the 74 on the Vietnam war

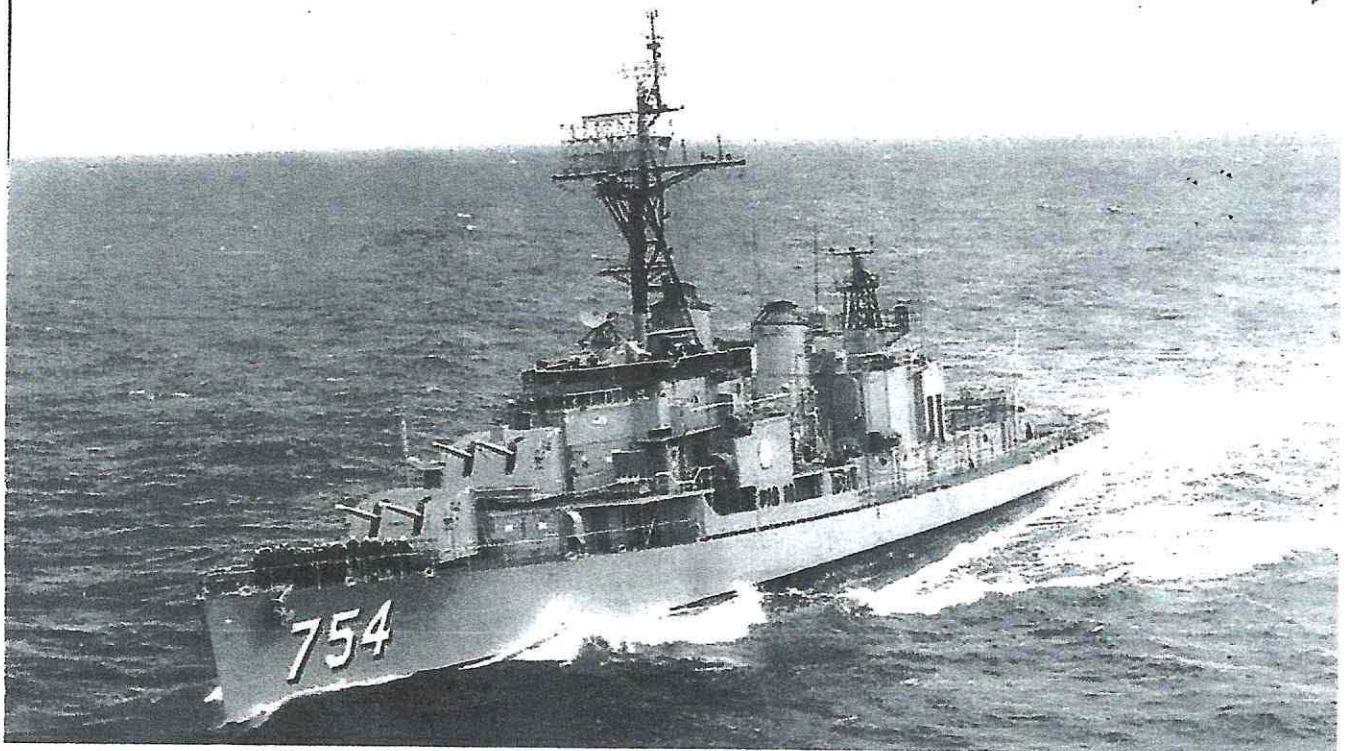
Memorial. I informed him of my involvement in this incident. At the time he seemed confident of the bills passage. To make a long story short that bill has been sitting in committee since 2019. It appears that the opposition comes from those involved with the Wall. Their greatest argument is that the deaths occurred out of the combat zone. Under title 38 of the US Code, section 101, veterans who died as a direct or indirect result of military operations in Southeast Asia are eligible for inclusion on the memorial. The evidence submitted clearly shows that the Evans had be operating in combat support and upon conclusion of the exercise would have returned to the mission of combat support in the waters off Vietnam. 11/11/2025 marks the conclusion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the war. I urge support of this resolution in order to suggest that the United States Congress revisit and bring forward these House and Senate bills. It would be most fitting for the names to be added before November of 2025.

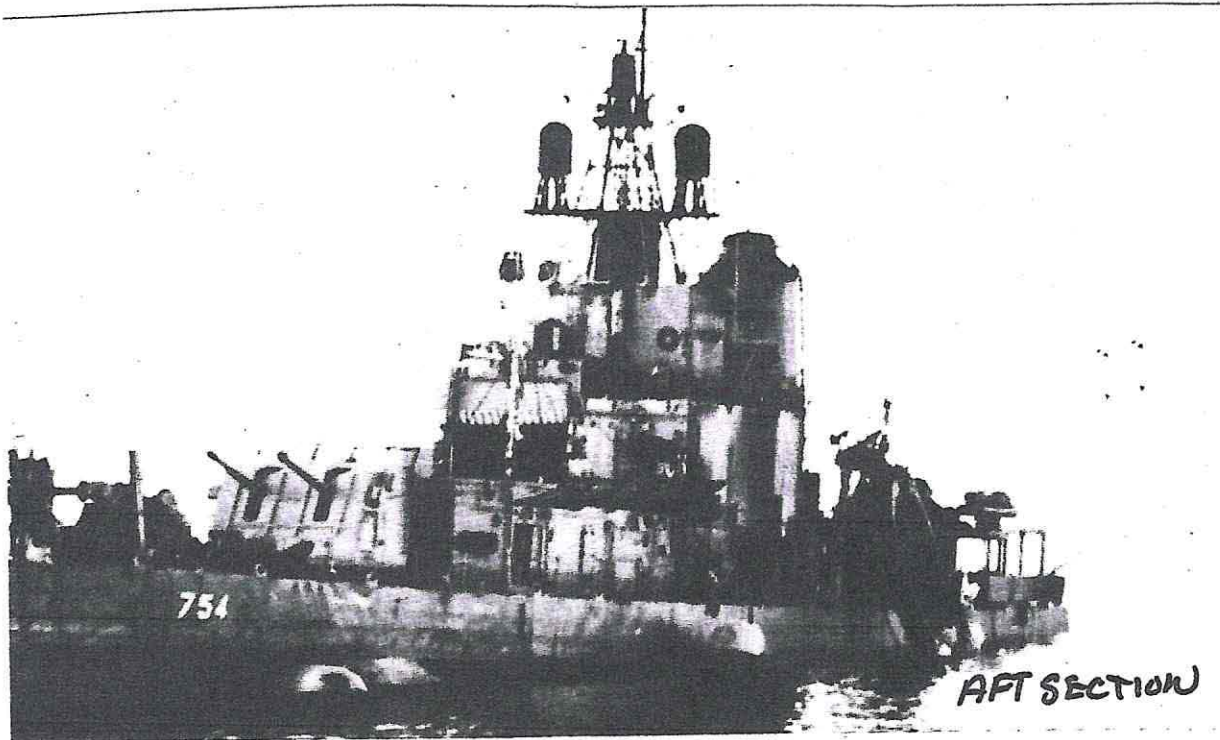
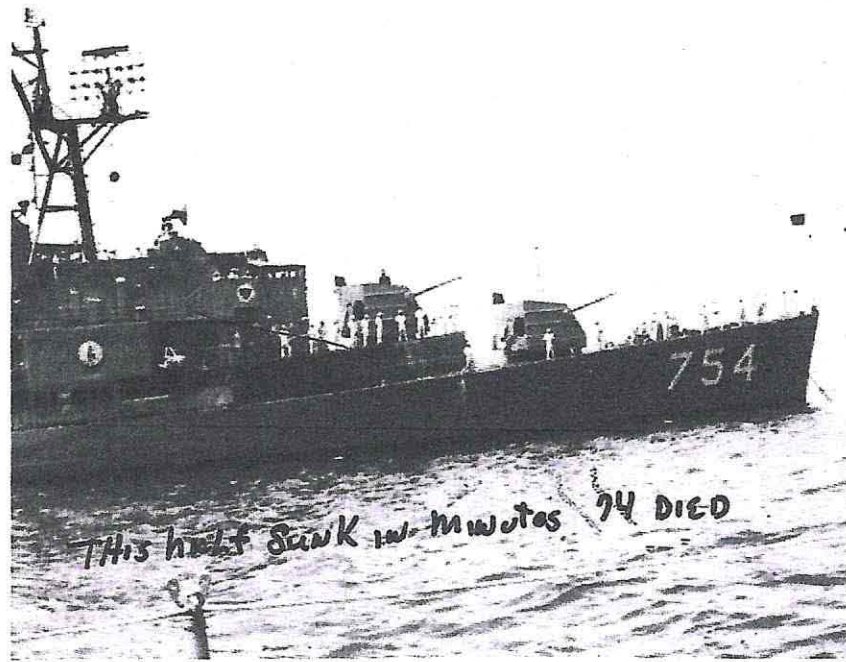
# USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) JUNE 3, 1969

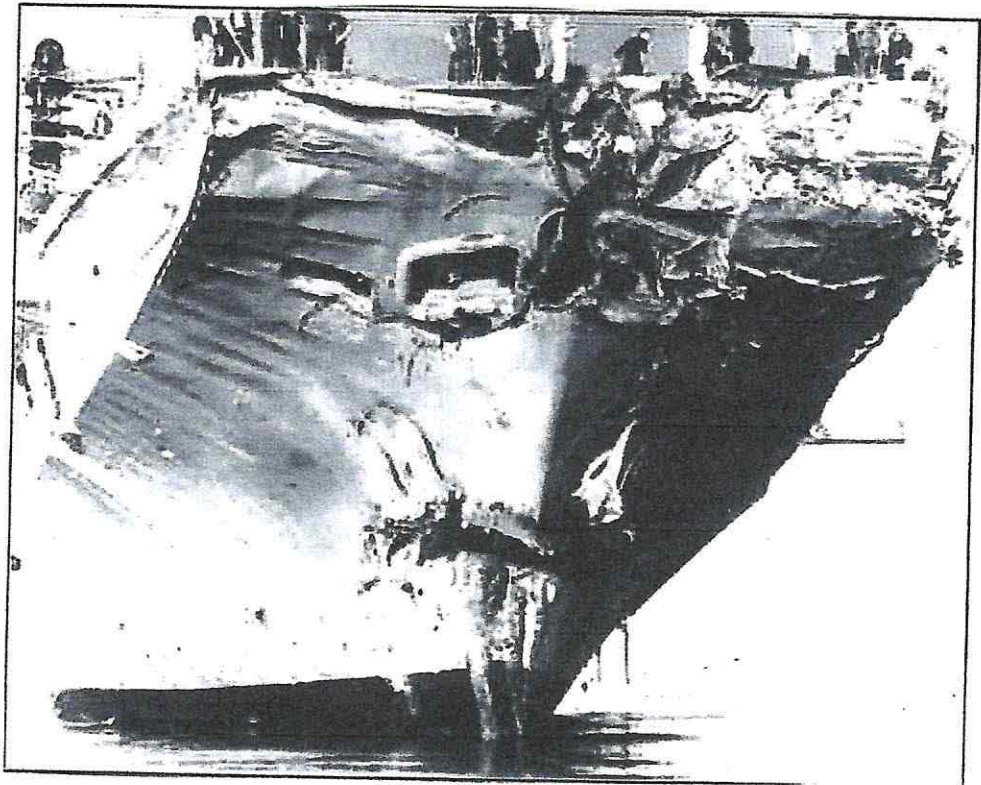
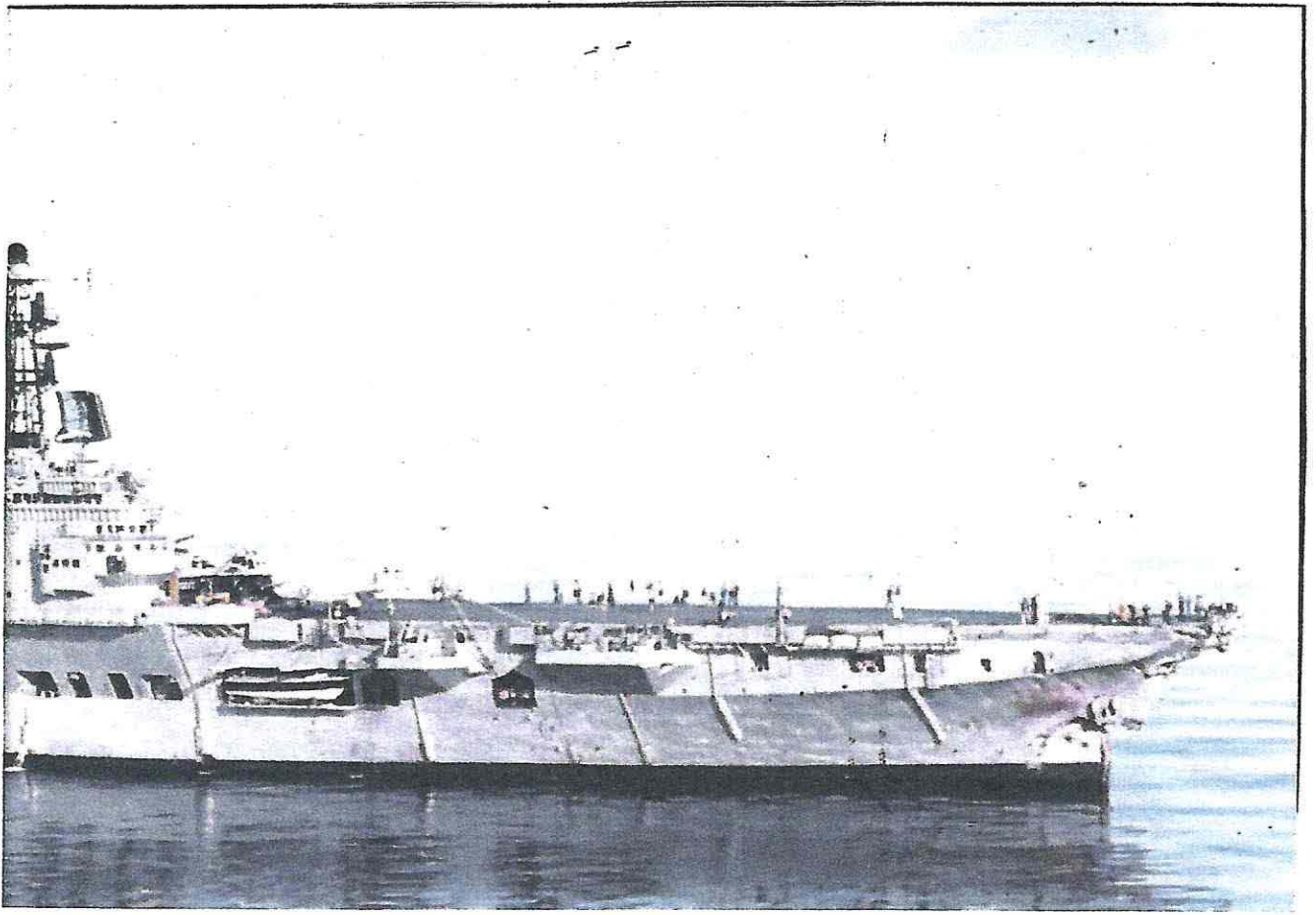


Patrick Gene Glennon

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.







## H.R.7972 - USS Frank E. Evans Act

117th Congress (2021-2022) | [Get alerts](#)

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Schiff, Adam B. \[D-CA-28\]](#) (Introduced 06/07/2022)

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

**Latest Action:** House - 06/07/2022 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. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** ⓘ

[Introduced](#) > [Passed House](#) > [Passed Senate](#) > [To President](#) > [Became Law](#)

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[Summary\(1\)](#) [Text\(1\)](#) [Actions\(3\)](#) [Titles\(2\)](#) [Amendments\(0\)](#) [Cosponsors\(5\)](#) [Committees\(2\)](#) [Related Bills\(1\)](#)

There is one summary for H.R.7972. [Bill summaries](#) are authored by [CRS](#).

**Shown Here:**

**Introduced in House (06/07/2022)**

**USS Frank E. Evans Act**

This bill requires the Department of Defense to authorize 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.

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## S.849 - U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Act

116th Congress (2019-2020)

**Sponsor:** [Sen. Cramer, Kevin \[R-ND\]](#) (Introduced 03/14/2019)

**Committees:** Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

**Committee Meetings:** [06/19/19 10:00AM](#)

**Latest Action:** Senate - 06/19/2019 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: [S.Hrg. 116-308](#). ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** ⓘ

[Introduced](#)

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[Summary\(1\)](#) [Text\(1\)](#) [Actions\(2\)](#) [Titles\(2\)](#) [Amendments\(0\)](#) [Cosponsors\(24\)](#) [Committees\(1\)](#) [Related Bills\(2\)](#)

There is one summary for S.849. [Bill summaries](#) are authored by [CRS](#).

**Shown Here:**

**Introduced in Senate (03/14/2019)**

**U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Act**

This bill requires the Department of Defense to authorize 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.

HCR 3008

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

3/02/2023

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HCR 3008.

Intent of this bill...

- Encourage 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to take action and approve S 849 and HR 7972 to include the names of the Lost 74 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.
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