

Many of you have asked for some language you might use in contacting your State Senators. Two key Senators are Harry Reid, Majority Leader from Nevada and Senator Carl Levin from the State of Michigan, he heads up the Armed Services Committee. The remaining members of the committee are listed below:

Members:

Levin, Carl (MI) , Chairman
Reed, Jack (RI)
Nelson, Bill (FL)
McCaskill, Claire (MO)
Udall, Mark (CO)
Hagan, Kay R. (NC)
Manchin, Joe (WV)
Shaheen, Jeanne (NH)
Gillibrand, Kirsten E. (NY)
Blumenthal, Richard (CT)
Donnelly, Joe (IN)
Hirono, Mazie K. (HI)
Kaine, Tim (VA)
King, Angus S. (ME)

Members:

Inhofe, James M. (OK), Ranking Member
McCain, John (AZ)
Sessions, Jeff (AL)
Chambliss, Saxby (GA)
Wicker, Roger F. (MS)
Ayotte, Kelly (NH)
Fischer, Deb (NE)
Graham, Lindsey (SC)
Vitter, David (LA)
Blunt, Roy (MO)
Lee, Mike (UT)
Cruz, Ted (TX)

The following is provided as a suggestion only

Dear Senator,

The House of Representatives recently passed (H.R. 4435) as a companion bill to the Armed Services Appropriation Bill, now Senate Bill (S 2294). I am asking for your support to include a provision urging the Defense Secretary to put the names of the "Lost 74" from the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, just like one that was included in the House bill.

On 3 June, 1969, the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was cut in half by an Australian aircraft carrier in the South China Sea - 74 American sailors lost their lives. The USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was participating in a joint Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) exercise called "Sea Spirit" in the South China Sea with more than 40 ships of SEATO nations, at the time of the collision with HMAS Melbourne (r 21). Despite operating in Vietnamese waters immediately before

deployment to Exercise Sea Spirit, and being scheduled to return to activities supporting the war effort after the exercise, it was determined that since Exercise Sea Spirit took place 112 miles outside the geographical limit for the combat zone the crew was ineligible for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

While the USS. Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was not in the combat zone as defined by Executive Order 11216, the ship was supporting the ongoing military conflict in Vietnam and the crew was instrumental in advancing American military objectives in Vietnam. Not to mention, the crew had participated in conflict just days before the collision. Vietnam veterans have long argued that inclusion on the monument should not be determined by geographic location, and exceptions to this rule have previously been made for service members killed as part of the conflict but not in Vietnam itself. For example, those involved in operations in Laos (Laos was later included in the combat zone) and those dying in transit to or from Vietnam have been made are eligible for the memorial.

It is clear the "lost 74" gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It is now time for our country to give back this loss by recognizing them and adding their names to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"Lest We Forget"

Sincerely,

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