

VFW Resolution No. 303

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE 74 SAILORS KILLED ON USS FRANK E. EVANS ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL "WALL"

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-297, (94 Stat, 827), authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to construct a memorial to honor and recognize armed forces service in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the memorial fund relied upon the Department of Defense to compile the list of names and the criteria for those persons to be memorialized; and

WHEREAS, as of February 1981, the Department of Defense established four distinct criteria for names to be included on the memorial; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Defense shall decide (as defined in Section 101 (2), of Title 38 United States Code), veterans who died as a direct or indirect result of military operations in Southeast Asia and whose names are eligible for inclusion on the memorial. Congressman Adam B. Schiff presented evidence and petitions in an audience with the Secretary Of The Navy Mabus. The evidence documented the tragic accident that destroyed the Frank E. Evans and killed 74 of her Sailors on June 3, 1969. The evidence included actual position, course, and, reason for being there, Secretary Mabus whole heartedly agreed. He is currently petitioning the Secretary of Defense, whose office serves as the final decision authority, to review the case and consider the points we have raised; and

WHEREAS, the date of the collision corresponds to the criteria for the Vietnam Service Medal and the USS Frank E. Evans was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal for the dates 2-6 June 1969 along with the ships that came to her rescue. The ships that came to the Evans aid were USS Everett F. Larson DD830, USS Kearsarge CVS 33, USS Walke DD723, USS James E. Kyes DD787, plus tug Tawasa ATF 92. The tug was sent to pull the remaining after half of the ship to Subic Bay. The ships, the men on the ships, and the sailors killed on the Evans because where they were and why, are entitled to Vietnam Service Medal. The criteria for Vietnam Service Medal are identical to the criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "Wall"; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we fully support a favorable decision from the Department of Defense to include the 74 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Passage of this resolution in no way commits any liability or costs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Submitted by Department of Arizona
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS