

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 719 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BARBIN, BARRAR, SAINATO, READSHAW, JOZWIAK, GROVE,
HENNESSEY, BURNS, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL,
RYAN, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, NEILSON, HAGGERTY, O'NEILL, GREINER,
RAPP, DAY, CALTAGIRONE, JAMES, D. COSTA AND GOODMAN,
MARCH 6, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 6, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Defense to include the
2 names of the fallen sailors of the Destroyer USS Frank E.
3 Evans (DD 754) on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

4 WHEREAS, On March 29, 1969, the officers and men of the USS
5 Frank E. Evans (DD 754) departed Long Beach for the Western
6 Pacific to carry out the operational orders of their commander
7 in chief during a time of war with North Vietnam; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 3, 1969, the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754),
9 while on an allied naval exercise during the Vietnam War,
10 collided with the Australian aircraft carrier, the HMAS
11 Melbourne (R21) in the South China Sea, near the coast of
12 Vietnam; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who died

1 during the Vietnam War have been memorialized by placing the
2 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, so
3 long as they died within the combat zone; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense maintains
5 the men who died as a result of the sinking of the USS Frank E.
6 Evans (DD 754) do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the
7 Vietnam Veterans Memorial since the accident occurred outside
8 the combat zone and continues to deny the placement of the names
9 of the 74 lost sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

10 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War combat zone boundaries were ill
11 defined and have been changed from time to time and should not
12 be the reason to exclude the names of the lost sailors from the
13 Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

14 WHEREAS, Other members of the United States Armed Forces who
15 have died outside the Vietnam War combat zone have had their
16 names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Department
19 of Defense to include the names of the 74 sailors from the USS
20 Frank E. Evans (DD 754) on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives fully support an
23 immediate favorable decision by the United States Department of
24 Defense to make an exception to its criteria in order to include
25 those names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.