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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 217 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BARBIN, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO, COHEN,  
KOTIK, KINSEY, VEREB, DUSH, SONNEY, MILLARD, V. BROWN,  
FARINA, THOMAS, HAHN, McNEILL, McCARTER, HENNESSEY, D. COSTA,  
MAHONEY, DONATUCCI, DeLUCA, WHEELAND, GOODMAN, YOUNGBLOOD,  
PAYNE, WATSON, CONKLIN, GROVE AND GINGRICH, APRIL 8, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 8, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, On March 26, 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  
9 names of the 74 lost sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial;  
10 and

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

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

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

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