DRAFT RESOLUTION 14-13

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF USS FRANK E. EVANS

SOURCE: DEPT. OF IOWA

WHEREAS, On the 29th of March 1969, the officers and men of USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD754) departed Long Beach for the Western Pacific to carry out the operational orders of their Commander in Chief during a time of war with the North Vietnamese government;

WHEREAS, At 03:15 hours on June 3, 1969, USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754), while on an allied Naval Exercise during the Vietnam War, was in a collision with the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS MELBOURNE (R 21) in the South China Sea, near the coast of Vietnam;

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

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who died during the Vietnam War have been memorialized by placing their names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. so long as they died within the war zone;

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense maintains USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) does not meet the DOD criteria since the accident occurred outside the war zone, and continues to deny placing the names of the lost 74 sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial;

WHEREAS, The Vietnam war zone boundaries were created for tax purposes, were ill defined having been changed from time to time, and should not be the defining reason to exclude the names of the lost 74 sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial;

WHEREAS, other members of the United States Armed Forces who died outside the Vietnam War zone have had their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; now,

THEREFORE: Let it be known that a great injustice continues to prevail by the hand of the Department of Defense to exclude the 74 sailors from being added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and that AMVETS fully support an immediate favorable decision by the Department of Defense to make an exception.