

**RICHARD J. GLEASON**

October 29, 2003

George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Bush;

On June 2, 1969 we lost 74 of our sons in a tragic accident at sea when the **USS Frank E. Evans** and the HMAS Melbourne (Australian Aircraft Carrier) collided in the South China Seas.

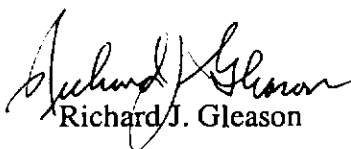
I am a member of the **USS Frank E. Evans Association**; a destroyer built in 1944 and served in three conflicts in the Western Pacific in over 24 years. At the 2003 reunion in Long Beach, California, the Association voted to sponsor a request to you, Mr. President, to intercede with the Department of the Navy to have a new ship named to honor these 74 brave men who lost their lives, their families, the survivors and the Navy people who have served in her during this time.

On June 17, 1969 President Richard Nixon wrote a wonderful condolence letter with the phrase, "...will forever honor his memory". (Letter enclosed) This would create a lasting memorial.

The Navy authorized 58 DDG Guided Missiles Destroyers, 46 of which have been launched, Commissioned or named. We respectfully request that you direct one of the remaining 12 be Named the new **USS Frank E. Evans** to honor all these men, the survivors, their families, the Navy and this great nation.

It is traditional in the Navy that a woman be a sponsor of a new ship. We suggest that the First Lady, Laura Bush, have this honor.

**Lest we forget!**



Richard J. Gleason

cc: USS Frank E. Evans Association

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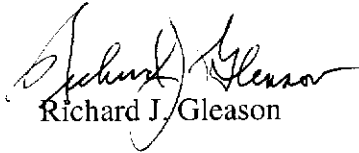
Mrs. Laura Bush  
First Lady of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bush;

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter to the President as well as a copy of a letter from President Nixon to the parents of a Navy seaman who died in the service of his country.

We would hope that you would accept the honor to be the ship's sponsor.

Respectfully yours,



Richard J. Gleason

cc: USS Frank E. Evans Association