



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-1000

August 3, 2004

MR RICHARD GLEASON
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Gleason:

Thank you for your letter to President George W. Bush suggesting that a naval vessel be named after USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754). I am answering on behalf of the President.

I regret the delay you have experienced in receiving a response to your letter. Due to the heavy volume of mail the White House receives and the screening process all letters must now go through, my office just recently received your letter.

Our office replied to your first letter to the President requesting consideration in this matter on March 22, 2004. Additionally, we forwarded that letter to the Naval Historical Center, who is responsible for researching and submitting potential names for future Naval Vessels to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The CNO then submits recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy, who considers these recommendations and makes the final decision for naming our Naval vessels.

As stated in our previous letter, suggested names far outnumber ships in our current building inventory. The horrific accident onboard FRANK E. EVANS that took so many crewmembers was truly tragic. The families of those lost are surely proud of their loved ones' service, and honoring those crewmembers in this manner is a worthy request and will be given every consideration when names are chosen for future ships. We have forwarded your letter and videotape to the Naval Historical Center for consideration.

Again, thank you for bringing this excellent suggestion to our attention and thank you for writing to the President.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. BRETZ

Director, White House Liaison Office
Office of the Secretary of the Navy