



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4304

June 3, 1999

**U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Association
c/o Mr. J.C. Campbell, President**

Dear Association Members:

I am pleased to extend greetings to members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Association on the occasion of your joint wreath laying ceremony with the HMAS Melbourne Association in Sydney, Australia.

Although I was unable to accept your kind invitation to participate in the ceremony, I welcome the opportunity through this message to pay tribute to the sailors who lost their lives in the June 3, 1969 collision off the coast of Vietnam.

I am deeply grateful for your efforts to honor these sailors and join you in an expression of appreciation to the members of the HMAS Melbourne Association for their hospitality in welcoming you to Australia for the joint wreath laying ceremony.

The bonds that were forged in tragedy have remained strong through the years and across the miles. Please share my message of gratitude with our Australian friends.

I wish you a safe journey and commend you for your efforts to recall the service of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans during three wars, and remember the individuals who lost their lives in the service of our country during that fateful night.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Bailey Hutchison".

Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/had