

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 13**

Introduced by DeKay, 40; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Blood, 3; Bostar, 29; Bostelman, 23; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Conrad, 46; Day, 49; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Erdman, 47; Fredrickson, 20; Geist, 25; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Kauth, 31; Linehan, 39; Lippincott, 34; Lowe, 37; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Vargas, 7; von Gillern, 4; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, Gary, Gregory, and Kelly Sage were born to Ernest and Eunice (Cornish) Sage of Niobrara, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Sage brothers enlisted in the United States Navy and requested they be stationed aboard the same ship together, the Allen M. Sumner class destroyer USS Frank E. Evans; and

WHEREAS, the Sage brothers and the crew of the USS Frank E. Evans admirably performed their duties when the ship was assigned to provide naval gunfire support for American forces during Operation Daring Rebel along the coast of Vietnam in early May of 1969; and

WHEREAS, the USS Frank E. Evans was ordered to operate with a multinational Southeast Asia Treaty Organization task force of forty ships in the South China Sea for joint naval exercise Operation Sea Spirit. Sea Spirit was one of the largest naval exercises in the history of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and served as a show of force demonstration towards North Vietnam and its allies operating in the region; and

WHEREAS, the USS Frank E. Evans was assigned to screen a multinational task force led by the Australian aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne. Whilst taking up a new escort station, the USS Frank E. Evans was accidentally rammed and split in two by the HMAS Melbourne on June 3, 1969. At the time of the accident, the task force was sailing on base course 220 degrees. The actual coordinates of the collision occurred at latitude 08 degrees 59.2 north and longitude 110 degrees 47.7 east and corresponds to a position less than 200

miles southeast of the Vietnam mainland; and

WHEREAS, Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Gary Sage, Radarman 3rd Class Gregory Sage, and Seaman Apprentice Kelly Sage were among the seventy-four sailors killed in this tragic accident. In performing their duties aboard the USS Frank E. Evans, the lost seventy-four answered the call to the colors, served in the finest traditions of the United States Navy, and sacrificed their lives so that future generations of Americans might continue to enjoy the fruits of freedom; and

WHEREAS, multiple unsuccessful efforts have been made to include the names of the seventy-four sailors on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Ninety-First Legislature recognized that the Sage brothers served our country honorably during the Vietnam War and deserved to have their names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for the Vietnam Service Medal and the criteria for the inclusion of names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall are similar. The USS Frank E. Evans was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal for the collision date along with the ships that came to its aid, including the aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge, destroyer USS Walke, destroyer USS James E. Keyes, and tug USS Tawasa. The ships, the men aboard the ships, and the sailors killed on the USS Frank E. Evans received the Vietnam Service Medal because of where they were and why; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Legislature to honor and respect the sacrifices of our military servicemen and servicewomen, as well as the families, organizations, and communities that support them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature supports action to include the names of the Sage brothers and the other seventy-one sailors of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in the District of Columbia.

2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation encouraging them to take action to see that the names of those killed on the USS Frank E. Evans be included on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.