

Vietnam Generation

Volume 2
Number 2 *Kent and Jackson State: 1970-1990*

Article 2

1-1995

Preface to the First Edition

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Recommended Citation

Erenrich, Susie (1995) "Preface to the First Edition," *Vietnam Generation*: Vol. 2 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/vietnamgeneration/vol2/iss2/2>

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Preface to the First Edition

Susie Erenrich

On May 4, 1990, I will return to Ohio to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Kent and Jackson State shootings. I will be joined by friends and family, many of them contributors to this special edition of *Vietnam Generation*, to honor the memory of the six students who were slain.

For some, the legacy of Kent and Jackson State is just a forgettable historical incident; but to those most closely touched by the event, it has been the embodiment of their pain and anguish.

Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, William Schroeder, Phillip Gibbs, and James Green made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. The spirits of these people are very much alive. By looking through the terrible darkness of their deaths, we can see the love that still binds them to the living.

Kent and Jackson State: 1970-1990 is a collection of essays, songs, photographs, articles, and testimonials written by the people who have lost the most, and have said the least: the mothers and fathers, the wounded students, friends of the deceased, the eye-witnesses, and those who care.

I invite the readers to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Kent and Jackson State shootings with me. For we can never deal honestly with the future if we fail to acknowledge the past.



Using stencils and spray paint, students create “instant memorials” on the Kent State campus, August 20, 1977. Photo © by John P. Rowe.