

# WHEN?

*"When will you forgive and forget the Vietnam War protesters?"*

Vietnam War poet:  
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## When?

**They** gathered in the streets and in the coffee house across this great land, where they plotted and planned.  
**They** crusaded, yelled, cursed and in open defiance burned their draft cards in hand.  
**They** brazenly waved the enemy's flag in our face.  
**They** shouted, *"It's not our damn war, we won't go!"*  
**They** spit on and burned the Red, White and Blue and yelled *"F---- you!"* too.  
**The** POW's under went brutal, intense and prolonged agony, and this man has the audacity to ask me? When?"  
**They** made fun of the MIA's and spit on the returning WIA's and shouted, *"Baby Killers!"*  
**They** screamed their approval when Jane Fonda sat on the AAA gun in Hanoi and thumbed her nose at our fighting men and women.

**I can think of over Fifty Eight thousand reasons for not forgiving or forgetting.** And they are all inscribed on a cold black granite wall. And that man has the audacity to ask me: *When?*

**Then, like cowards:**

**They ran** and hid-out in all four corners of the earth to keep out of harms way.

**When it was all over,**

**They sneaked back** into the good old US of A under the protection of the highest office of the land.  
*"That was an unjust war!"* was the lame excuse they used to justify their immoral sin.

**I ask,** *"Who gave them a choice?"* No one gave you or me a choice! It was our duty, and it was the law of the land.

**Now, today, this man has the audacity to ask me,** *"WHEN am I going to forget and forgive?"*

**Well, let me tell you something my friend:** I have the tenacity to answer this question once and for all!

### WHEN?

**When the world cracks at both ends and the seven seas run in.**

**When snow cap mountains rise from the bowels of hell.**

**When all the stars have fallen from the heavens.**

**When time stands still.**

**Not yesterday, not today and not tomorrow-- but never!**

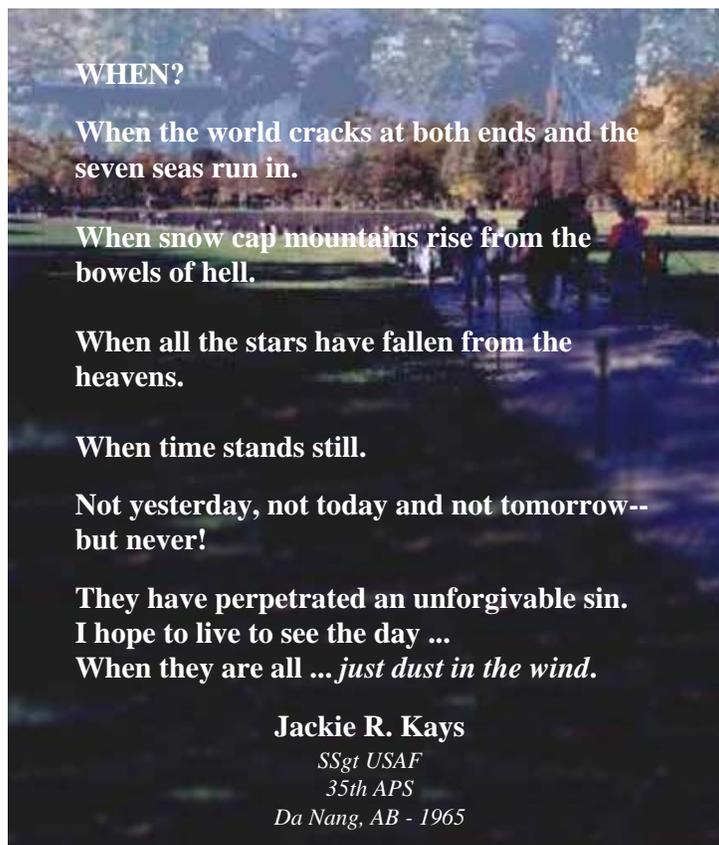
**They have perpetrated an unforgivable sin.  
I hope to live to see the day ...  
When they are all ... just dust in the wind.**

**Jackie R. Kays**

*SSgt USAF*

*35th APS*

*Da Nang, AB - 1965*



FYI: Hi Guys, A couple of months ago, I ran an article on the web, entitled: "Vietnam War Defectors" I received several positive messages in regards to that article. A few days ago, out of the blue came an E-mail response to the article. I won't bore you with the details of the message, but it was chastising and dripping with sarcasm about the article. Sarcasm runs off of me like water on a duck back. But, one question he asked stuck in my proverbial craw. It was: "When are you going to forgive and forget the Vietnam War protesters?"

I answered with the above heart-felt little poem.

Jackie R. Kays