

# Kent State massacre memorial held in Peace Park

Mid-Missouri  
Peaceworks organized  
the Wednesday after-  
noon memorial.

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*Staff Writer*

On the 35th anniversary of the Kent State massacre, 35 people gathered in Peace Park to remember victims of the shooting.

On May 4, 1970, about 800 Ohio

National Guardsmen were on the Kent State campus as more than 1,000 students gathered to protest the Vietnam War. During the protest, the guardsmen fired on students, killing four and injuring nine.

After a candlelight vigil on Wednesday, Columbia residents Carolyn Mathews and Susan Woodbury sang songs about peace.

Several speakers followed before the group paused for a moment of silence.

Jeffrey Miller, a childhood friend of Mid-Missouri Peaceworks Director Mark Haim, was one of the students killed.

Haim, who attended high school with Miller in Plainview, N.Y., said the two had not attended protests together.

"Most people of my graduating class got more active in peace demonstrations once they got to college," Haim said.

Haim said protests during the 1970s were against the Vietnam War, not the Kent State massacre.

"It wasn't the shooting of the students that sparked the protest," Haim said. "It was the protest that sparked the shooting of the students."

Although Haim went to

Washington, D.C., to protest the war in 1970, he said protesters do not need to travel to voice their opinion.

"Most of the time what we need to do is in our own community," Haim said.

Former MU professor Bill Wickersham was one of the speakers during Wednesday's memorial.

Wickersham spoke of protests on the MU campus shortly after the Kent State massacre.

"(In) May of 1970, we had about 4,000 students over on the quadrangle," he said. "They

met at various places, what is now Stankowski Field, then Rollins Field, on the quadrangle and here in Peace Park. And this was when Peace Park really took on that name."

Junior Cat Johnson, whose family friend was shot and injured at the Kent State massacre, was among the students in attendance.

"He actually wasn't protesting," Johnson said of her family friend. "He was walking through about the time that the guard raised their guns and were pointing them at students."