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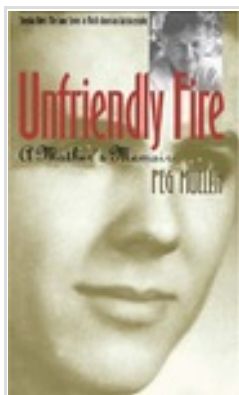
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## SINGULAR LIVES: THE IOWA SERIES IN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

### Unfriendly Fire: A Mother's Memoir

[Peg Mullen](#)



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#### Abstract

In 1968 Michael Mullen, a graduate student in biochemistry, was drafted; he was sent to Vietnam as a foot soldier in Colonel Norman Schwarzkopf's Charlie Company and in 1970 he was killed by the same "friendly fire" that destroyed thousands of lives during the Vietnam War.

Back home on the family farm in Iowa, his parents made his death a crusade, and all parents to the insanity of war. C. D. B. Bryan's *Friendly Fire* and the TV series of the same name documented these dramatic years, and Peg Mullen became a national symbol of grassroots activism. Now Peg Mullen shifts from symbol to real person, telling her story in print for the first time.

Outspoken, fearless, and wickedly humorous, Peg Mullen had a duel mission after Michael's death: to penetrate the lies and evasions behind the artillery that killed her oldest son and to publicize the senseless horror of the Vietnam War.

*Unfriendly Fire* draws on the many letters sent to the Mullens after Michael's addition, Michael's own bitter, weary letters home are reprinted. In these letters, parents, brothers, sisters, comrades, teachers, and Michael himself echo the call for truth and peace.

### **Series Editor**

Stone, Albert E.

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