

**Center for Constitutional Rights**

666 Broadway

New York, New York

Ph: 212 614 6430; Fax: 212 243-2007

e-mail: [mratner@igc.org](mailto:mratner@igc.org)

Dear Editor:

NYT Magazine Article (4/29/01): "What Happened in Thanh Phong"

Kerrey is anguished by the killing of at least 13 Vietnamese in the village of Thanh Phong, Vietnam. However, as far as I know, he has not addressed the pain and loss suffered by the families of those killed. The appropriate moral and ethical response would be to make amends to their surviving relatives both in word and deed.

He should go back to the village of Thanh Phong, see for himself the damage caused, visit the cemetery where those killed are buried, meet with their families if they are willing, and apologize. Real regret and sorrow is expressed face to face. He should be prepared to assist those families and that village materially. Such actions will demonstrate his sincerity and may aid those who suffered from the loss of their loved ones.

Michael Ratner is an international human rights attorney and the vice-president of the Center for Constitutional Rights in NYC