

Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: KEN TO (CUONG VINH TO)

Interviewer: Justin To

Date: May 31, 2015

Location: Orange, CA

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Spring 2015

Length of Interview: 1:44:58

Time Log

00:00:18	Ken To introduces himself and birthdate
00:00:40	He talks about his birthplace and parents' names
00:01:20	He discusses his parents' occupations
00:01:50	He discusses where he grew up
00:03:00	He talks briefly about his father's death
00:04:01	Discusses schooling and education
00:05:20	Discusses memories of grandparents
00:05:50	Discusses siblings
00:06:30	Discusses family name
00:07:00	Discusses grandpa's occupation
00:09:30	Discusses father's occupation
00:12:00	Discusses mother's occupation
00:13:23	Discusses father's death in depth
00:16:10	Discusses his duties being man of the house
00:17:37	Discusses post-wartime experiences and family/community effects
00:20:15	Discusses first attempt at escape
00:25:40	Discusses last days of the war
00:27:20	More details on first attempt at escape at Korean Embassy

- 00:29:40 Discussed when they actually left Vietnam
- 00:42:03 Discusses how they ended up on Pulau Bidong and how they survived
- 00:50:00 Briefly gives background on cousins who escaped earlier and how they sponsored them to US
- 00:52:00 Discusses those who stayed behind in Vietnam
- 00:55:00 Discusses first settlement in United States in Redondo Beach, CA
- 00:59:49 Discusses lawyer case and money support
- 01:01:00 Discusses barriers in America
- 01:04:00 Discusses first family home purchase
- 01:09:06 Discusses second home/market purchase and how he had to take care of market home
- 01:14:05 Discusses when he first met his wife (girlfriend at the time)
- 01:16:30 Discusses children born
- 01:17:30 Discusses hearing diagnosis of cancer in his youngest child and having to sell market for medical bills
- 01:21:00 Discusses second job and how he had the chance to revisit Vietnam
- 01:25:00 Discusses his opinion on future of Vietnam
- 01:29:00 Discusses citizenship process
- 01:30:00 Discusses his identity as Asian/Vietnamese American
- 01:32:00 Discusses opinion on the differences in generations
- 01:36:00 Discusses what he thinks the next generations should remember
- 01:41:50 Discusses what he does currently and his hobbies