Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: MINH DUONG
Interviewer: Cody Duong
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Transcriber: Cody Duong

Narrator Life Map

1967       Born on October 7 in Quang Tri in central Vietnam.
           • Grew up on a farm
1981       Escaped from Vietnam from Saigon
           - Traveled to America by boat; took 7 days and 6 nights.
           - Ended up in refugee camp in Malaysia (Palau Bidong), stayed for unknown amount of time.
1983       Landed in California, United States, at LAX Airport.
           - sponsored by uncle to go to United States; lived with him and his aunt in Irvine, CA.
           - Lived in California Homes complex; went to Irvine High School
1984       Worked at a carwash as a summer job.
1985       Started working at the LA times.
           - worked for ~4 years
1988       Became a U.S. citizen, started working at Oakley management.
           • Worked for 15 years, until 2003.
1991       Met my mother through her brother, who was in the Navy.
1993       Married my mother
1994       My parents had my older brother (their first child)
1995       My parents had me (second child)
1998       My parents had my younger sister (third and last child)
2000       Visited Vietnam for the first time since immigrating to America.
           - described it as fun, but didn’t have enough time to do everything.
2003    Started working in real estate, first in ReMax Discovery
        - works in Little Saigon; notes helping many Vietnamese people find homes.

2007    Visited Vietnam in anticipation of mother passing away.
        - his mother passed away a few days after visiting, due to brain cancer.
        - went to funeral and paid respects.

2012    Visited Vietnam in anticipation of father passing away.
        - his father passed away before he arrived.
        - went to funeral and paid respects.