Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: LAM THANH NGUYEN
Interviewer: Claudia Thanh Nguyen
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Narrator Life Map

1945 The communist were killing a lot of people.
- During this time, Lam’s grandpa and great grandfather were very rich.
  They had a rice field and the communist didn’t like that.

1951 Born in Hue, Vietnam.

1955 He was four years old and followed his mom and dad to Saigon.
- He went to elementary and high school in Hue and returned to Saigon for 10th and 11th grade.
- He went to Nha Trang to get his diploma.

1967 He had an uncle, Biet Long Quan, who was in the military. He fought against the Viet communist a lot and died in Quan Nai.

1971 He spent two years at Hue University.

1972 He enlisted in the army because he the Vietnam was expanding.
- He quit school.

1973 He was in Kien Gian and he was an officer in the Da Nang airport.

1975 Da Nang was the last place he was fighting against the Viet Cong.
- Da Nang province lost against the Vietnamese communist on March 29th, 1975. Lam then tried to escape them and get to the harbor, but he was not able to.
- He got captured by the Vietnamese communist and they put him in the re-education camp.

1978 He married his wife, Xuan Huynh, after dating her for 11 months. They have now been married for 32 years.

1987 He lived in Cambodia for 2 ½ months and then escaped to Thailand by boat on September 29th.

1988 Lam traveled to the United States and lived in Upland, California.

1995 He got naturalization and citizenship.

- He took advantage and voted in the US elections. He still continues to vote in the US elections today.