

Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

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CF: Okay. Continuing now.

TL: I was speaking earlier that I went to visit Taiwan and my mom had mentioned, I had an aunt over there who I've never met before, but we were able to meet up and she was able to show me around the area and it was just really nice because being in the different country and not being able to speak the language. It was kind of Nice to communicate with someone, in Vietnamese and, and just meeting someone that I've never met before that is tied by my blood. And so it's really great experience and even though it's never met before, I can just feel the love and how, how close and loving, um, they were to me and really well accepting.

CF: So definitely the family connection was also still present there even with the distance and even never having met them before.

TY: Yeah

CF: So you would like to visit Vietnam one day then?

TY: yeah, I would definitely still look forward to the day. I would be able to give back to Vietnam meet the family or, and just see the areas where my parents grew up.

CF: Have your parents been able to go back?

TY: Since coming to America? My mom has not been able to come back, but my dad has been able to, to go back two or three times now.

CF: Has it been hard on your mom at all? Uh, not being able to go back to that. She ever talked about it or?

TY: it's a little bit hard. Um, for her goal was to be able to take, uh, myself and my two older brothers back to Vietnam after I graduated from college. But around the time I graduated college, it was one of my oldest brother started having his, his health condition. And so with that we were just unable to, to make the trip. And so I know it's been hard on her to not have me see, um, how life was in back in Vietnam, but also hard on her knowing that I'm her oldest child is, is not well. So there has been a lot of stress.

CF: And now we're kind of going off into different subject. We're going to talk mainly about the school and career base questions. Okay. So what kind of school did you attend as a child?

TY: So as a kid I went to lampson elementary school and that was really close to the house. It was within walking distance and um, kindergarten through fifth grade, my mom would walk me to school every day or every time I had school. Sorry. Yeah, I know she would work really hard, um, to wake up early and prepare meals for my brothers and she would walk them first because they were in middle school, high school, and they would have to catch the early bus. and she would walk them to school and come back and then prepare the morning for me and walk me to school. And she would do all that before she had to get ready for work. And so she was up very early in the morning to prepare for everything. And even now, looking back, it's amazing what she's able to do. The waking up at four, four thirty in the morning. And me still not being honest, you wake up at like four in the morning for that something. But yeah, I do pretty good emotional because I know she, she's done so much.

CF: The the area you went to school in were they kind of ethnically diverse or mainly Vietnamese?

TY: the elementary school was pretty diverse. Still my friends from elementary school, I keep in touch with us where their main, we've been enemies, the school as, as I went to higher levels

education this, this seems to be a less diverse and the asian community with that, but there is an increase in the Hispanic population and just Kinda, the surrounding areas.

CF: Growing up you had to learn English and everything. Do you think that was kind of a smoother process for you because you were born here. Or maybe a little bit tougher or how was that growing up that you remember?

TY: Learning English was still fairly difficult because in the household, everything we just being Vietnamese and my only interaction with English prior to school was just watching like the rugrats or other cartoons. And so I picked up words here and there or I mean sesame street. And Barney was a big part of, um, me learning English. But it wasn't really quite solidify until I entered school. I mean, I was put into Esl for a little bit in elementary school until I'm able to speak the English better.

CF: So that was that ever like a problem for in school itself? Being surrounded by like the diversity growing up?

TY: No. I always found it easy to communicate or get along with other people. What did it, how I did experience difficulty was in writing. So just going throughout elementary school, middle school and high school, I still experienced some difficulty just communicating through, through words, through writing, writing essays, and knowing the proper sentence structures and paragraph structures. And so it was very daunting for me. Every time there was a an assigned I'd freak out. (laughs)

CF: What were some memorable or memories or events that happened in school?

TY: Um, the biggest event that comes to mind was in high school I was in charge of the penny drive that was sponsored by the leukemia lymphoma society or we're raising money for leukemia, lymphoma society. And I think the year that I was in charge, we place second place in

the nation for raising the most amount of money and I got to be interviewed on the Tony Danza show came to our school and kind of do like a little documentary. And so that was my 10 minutes of fame on national television. (laughs)

CF: Did your parents value schooling highly? I know you kind of mentioned this a little bit before.

TY: Them having their educational, not being very high in like middle school, but coming over to America, they knew that we weren't able to get the opportunities that were available unless we had a high, high, high education. And so they really value, they really like pounded it into us like go to school, get good grades and it's A or nothing, you know, like a B wasn't good enough and so, and that costs a lot stress growing up, you're trying to meet their expectations because what if you didn't get the A and you know, then they would get mad, kind of affected your, your self worth a little bit growing up it's like nothing is good enough for them. Then what am I good for here and there. And so it did lead to a lot of like mental stress. But as I got older and they start to notice how much it started affecting me, then they kind of backed off in. Now they're more, more more easy going because I know that they want me to do the best I can, but they can't be hard on me because they weren't able to help me in that process, like tutor me or teach me very things. Only up to like a certain extent, you know, and everything else is just all had to figure it out on my own or, or reach out for, you know, to teachers or my friends to, to help help me out with a tutor me.

CF: And you went to UCI, correct?

TY: Yes.

CF: What was your major at the time or when you started?

TY: So at UC Irvine, my major was in business economics.

CF: Was that something you were interested in or was it just something you were kind of pushed to do or?

TY: That was something I was interested in. And so my first experience with economics was in high school and what really attracted me to it was being able to explain what needed to be explained through graphs. And so again, earlier, anything that I can avoid using words made sense to me. So math and numbers. Yes. and you know, drawing graphs like supply, the demand curves to tell a story of what's going on that made it very, you know, very appealing to me. And then at UC Irvine that you go through like the upper division courses where it gets a little bit more, more intense and now you're drawing three, four graphs, but then you have to incorporate lots of statistics and where it's not even numbers anymore, it's just lots of words or letters or for variables. It was pretty daunting.

CF: Were your parents pretty encouraging you going to UCI?

TY: Yeah, they mainly like me going to UCI cause I was so close to home. Ideally I want it to go to UCLA or Berkeley or some other, school to get away from home. But ultimately, there is still part of me just wanting to be there with my family and to take care of them. So I stay at UC Irvine and I studied business economics because at that time, just when you think successful people, it's like they're running their own business or doing something in the finance world. And so I studied that, trying to get into like the financial markets. So then the, the family aspect really it did continue on from, you know, when your family being together in one house, so you going to college nearby, uh, everything was very much a sense of community then.

CF: So then the, the family aspect really it did continue on from, you know, when your family being together in one house, so you going to college nearby, everything was very much a sense of community then?

TY: Yeah. You know, and everything I was doing was how can I better myself for my family, how can I take care of them or to give back to what they've, they've sacrifice to, you know, to raise me or to give me the life that I have now.

CF: At UCI did you participate in any class or any outside activities or communities?

TY: Regarding extracurricularly extracurriculars at UC Irvine, I was part of a club called circle k international and it's just a continuation of key club from high school. And so it was just a student led to community services organization that really builds your leadership skills and, and how to give back to the community. So I was highly involved with that. And my favorite event was to volunteer weekly at the boys and girls club to help tutor them or place play sports with the kids.

CF: Do you have any memorable memories from that at all?

TY: For sure okay. Yeah, there's a lot. I'm just trying to think which stands out. I guess the biggest thing overall was to, was a platform opportunities to just let me be myself. There would be certain meetups or, conventions where we go and we cheer for our club and have school spirit and it's like no judgment. I can yell, scream, dance and, and not worry about about what other people thought of me and just really great form of, allow me to like be self expressive.

CF: Was your friend group largely Vietnamese Americans?

TY: es. and then my group of friends now that I've known him since elementary school and so we all kind of kept in touch. I guess. It's pretty rare to be still be best friends with people you met since elementary school, but majority of them are they all, yeah, all of them are vietnamese.

CF: What were your plans after you graduated?

TY: What were your plans after you graduated? After graduate from college? Again, so I

studied business economics to try to get my foot in the door to learn about the stocks are finance and ultimately, knowing that my family had a business in Vietnam and so they didn't have to worry about about money. Money gives you the opportunity for choices. And coming over here, they worked really hard for just barely even able to, to get by. And so, and I know that because they sacrificed so much, they haven't had time to enjoy themselves because they're always working. And so my goal is to just be able to retire my parents or let them enjoy their retirement. But right now they're just at home taking care of my brother. But you know, ultimately I still want to be able to take my parents back to Vietnam and so they can show me around or give them things that they've always wanted. They've always been very good with saving money and giving it towards their kids, you know, for school or for activities. So you kind of enjoy life. But they have sacrificed a lot and i wanted to be able to give back to them. And so that's part of reason why I wanted to study like business economics.

CF: What did your parents think of your plans then?

TY: They were happy. I mean, after seeing me stress out prior or during college about, about school and, and you know, I mean with expectations in the typical thing was like go to school, get good grades, become a doctor, lawyer, you make lots of money. I didn't have any interest in those areas of studies. And so, um, hearing about Bill Gates and having their own business, then that was like, oh, I'll go towards the business field in and have a lot of money, you know, so I can give to them. But knowing what I know now is that, money doesn't really create happiness in a sense. And so, I mean, I guess I would have enough money to know if it would give me happiness or not, but I just know that having a lot of money gives you more choices. You wouldn't have to train in your time. Time for money. and money is, can always be created, but the ultimate currency as your time because that cannot be created or saved at all. And so they are

getting older too. And so my ultimate goal is able to create more time, time for them to enjoy life or create time to, for me to spend more time with my family. And that's what your, that's what I value. And so if I had to train my time in for money, then that takes time away from being me being away from my family, you know? So right now my ultimate goal is just to create more time so I could choose to use my time more, more effectively.

CF: Were your parents mainly oriented towards getting more money and working the jobs and working really hard then growing up?

TY: Yeah. And because they worked all the time, I rarely got to see them, you know? And so my childhood was great, but I wasn't really raised by my parents for a good amount of time in my life, you know? Yeah. It would be different, you know, if they didn't have to worry about the money and were able to stay home and raise me, you know, maybe things would have been a little different, you know, but things needed to happen the way it needs have happen to shape me to, to be who I am.

CF: What kind of career did you want to have as a child?

TY: As a child? I wanted to be a fighter pilot and fly airplanes. (laughs) And that's just like the dreamer in me just , to be free. And when you're flying you're just, it's just being above everyone and the view. And that changed in like middle school when they start getting more involved with like technology and wanted to like study computers and be like a computer programer. And just, you know, growing up playing video games, right. It's just got working in that field. But towards the other high school, that field wasn't as strong, wasn't as as, I didn't have time things were being outsourced to another country and whatnot. And so, and my brothers, my middle brother studied computer science and he had difficulty looking for jobs. I was like maybe I should look into something else. And which led me to do business trying to create more money.

But now it's like, it's not about money, it's about time.

CF: So it's really about your surroundings growing up or whatever it was around you It was kind of like something you picked up on and I'm like, oh, I want to be this and that. And then it kind of developed into your own thought. You would say?

TY: mean, I guess your, you are like a product of your association. And so, a good part of my life was like spend gaming. So I'd make friends who play games and whatnot. And then, you know, I think going to college and being a business major, you're surrounded with like other people in the same major in hearing about what their thoughts and visions were, what they want to do with their lives. And it's like, oh, that sounds good. And you know, and I guess it's like one of the quotes from like Steve Jobs, like you don't know what you want until you know we can have. It's all, it's like, yeah. So now that I'm very fortunate to meet people who were able to create time for themselves and not have to spend their time working for a paycheck or money. It's like that's the ultimate goal. So that's what I want now. Right. Because, ultimately when you die, it's all this stuff you can buy using money. You can't take that with you all right. You're, you're not in your death bed. Like, oh I wish I had this or what should bring with it. It's like people always reflect like, I wish it had more time to do this or living out through like without regrets, you know? Like if they can do something, it's always something with time. All right. So I was like, how can you create more time so you can like live life to the fullest and really, really enjoy life

CF: Did you work while you were in school?

TY: Work while in school? my first job was in high school and so that was in 10th grade. I did some ecommerce on Ebay, working for one of my basketball coaches with his side business. And

he hired me and I got all my jobs kind of resolved revolves around sales. I was either selling something or selling something myself are selling a product either in person or online. And so, um, after that job in high school, my basketball coach, I got a job at the Angel Stadium, like the baseball fields. And so that involves me selling just various food items and I really enjoyed selling not peanuts, cotton candy. Again, I don't like to be verbal and so yeah, you know, when you're selling peanuts you like really yell peanuts and making sure people hear you. But, if you're holding a giant board of cotton candy, you can see it across the stadium, just a big board of pink fluffy candy and people see you and they would call you to sell. And so, so that was really good. High School job in college. I didn't work the first couple of years of college because I was pretty focused on school, cool. Sticking twenty plus units for the first two years. And afterwards I did, what i do?can't remember the first job in college, but the last job before I graduated it was, with the triathlon company, there's still dealing with ecommerce and so I was able to intern with them towards the end of my college career. And after I graduated they offered me a position at the company to handle their, web sales and kind of, and, retail a little bit. So just sales while makes me experience revolves around sales. But it's really good opportunity though because with sales comes with, interactions and improving communication and really learning how to connect with people and how it's best for them for their wants and needs.

CF: You already mentioned your first job, what is your current job and is that, is this where you want to be?

TY: So my current job right now is a neurologically based chiropractor. And this is exactly where I want to be. And so again, it's not about me and it's about what I can help facilitate for others. And part of it is just creating more health, right? People will come in and you're not feeling well and if you can just kind of give them hope that everything will be okay and they will

get better. And ultimately, you know, you're the grace. Wealth is your health, right? If you don't have health then didn't life, the quality of your life is affected. You can have all the money you want, but if you, if you're not healthy, then you can't do anything with it. You know? And again, it goes back to time, how to create more time for yourself or for other people too. And so when you're healthy, your quality of life is increase in, you know, not just adding more, years to your life, but also more life to the year. So you do have left here.

CF: And how did you get to this point then coming from, business and economics in college?

TY: So the turning point was my oldest brother being sick. And so after graduating and working for the traveling company, the health of my brother started to decline and it led to him needing to have doctor visits on a weekly basis. And my parents not being able to communicate fluently in English or having the time to take them. And so I would ask for time off and drive my brother to his doctor appointments and speak to the doctors. And it came to the point where I just had to quit my job to able to do what I can from my brother. And that was really close to my brother because being the oldest one, he's still very protective of me and always took care of me. You know. The relationship with my middle brother was kind of rough, you know, being bullied, you know, but it was always him taking care of me. Yeah. And so I'd always want to give back and do what I can for him. And it wasn't until we met a chiropractor that was able to kind of improve the quality of life for my brother, not knowing what was going on. He was on a lot of medications and there was a point where, when you look into his eyes, you just know that he wasn't there anymore. And so we met a chiropractor who was able to achieve the same results as the medications, but kind of help taper him off medications and someone else like, Hey, this is something that helps my brother at and I'm really interested in. I would love always things you worked with my hands. And at the time I thought about switching careers to becoming a physical

therapist. But after, meeting the chiropractor that helped my brother, she kind of explained to me how about how the body works and how and it's controlled by the nervous system and the nerves and as a chiropractor or you're working with the spine that influences the nurse. And that just kind of clicked in my head and made sense. It's like, yeah, this is what I want to be doing too, you know? And it's just how I can get back to your community. You know, being involved with key club and circle k and then helping others. Like, how can I best help other people and improve the community? And so I feel like I really found my path and my purpose in life is to have this gift that I'm able to, to share with others. And that's, that's health.

CF: Did you go back to school for that?

TY: And so once I decide to become a chiropractor, I had to go back to school. And take all my prereq's. I wasn't science based at all inside to take my physics and my chemistries, my introductory bio and had to reapply for the Grad school and be accepted. And so again, wanting to continue to take care of my family. Be Close. There was a school nearby. In Whittier and it was the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

CF: And how long ago was that?

TY: I graduated December, 2016 and that was about three and a half year program. I took the accelerate program versus the normal because one, the loans were a lot. (laugh) How can I graduate as soon as possible and not be in too much debt. And you know, the sooner I got out then the faster I can help my brother and help the people around me.

CF: So you've been at this or you've been in this field for a couple of years now then?

TY: Yeah.

CF: Has It greatly changed your outlook on life, would you say?

TY: It has. I mean, just health wise, I mean anything can cause anything and anything can fix

anything. But a lot of times people that have come to see me is a, it's kind of like the last resort. They've kind of lost all hope but coming in and it's like don't give up, you know, like were created from two cells and within nine months we multiply to thirty plus trillion cells and every cell has, you know, at least ten chemical reactions if not more, every second. And the intelligence that does that, all that for us without a stinking still is part of us. And so I'd never, never left their body. And so the greatest doctor isn't me or, any outside person degrees, doctor is within your own body. And I only help facilitate the process by removing the nerve destruction, improving the communication between the brain and the body as well too. And a part of it. How about this profession help change shaped. Me Is during college when I was really stressed about school and trying to figure out what I wanted to do, um, I did have like anxiety and depression. I had to get special accommodations to take my exams because I couldn't be around other people I had to be in a room on my own. And I had counseling for a few years to kind of help you know, build strategies and tackle that. But they're still part of that feeling. I just never left. And not until I started getting consistent chiropractic care. They're just all that just left. And so it's pretty amazing. I mean, yeah. And you think looking back, it's pretty sick. Kid is in the hospital at least once a year. We'd go through the testing, but everything's normal. And so after a while, you know, the doctor said, it's all in your head. You might be making it up or I don't know, you know, but, and just until a meeting a chiropractor, he just listen then saying like, it's not in your head. It's okay. Just everyone can be in a better state of health if you get your spine checked to really, you know, we get our yearly fiscal, get her eyes checked and get her our teeth checked twice a year. But how often do people get their spine checked when the spine effects has it relationship with the nervous system in the brain that controls everything else in your body. It just made sense to me.

CF: How did your family and really encourage you on this path?

TY: I guess once I made my decision and they're just happy that I was able to find something that I'm happy with and able to live my own life and not living up to their expectations.

CF: And during school, when you were going through that tough period, what were your family supportive or how did they deal with that?

TY: I kind of kept it to myself. I felt like they just didn't understand, like, you know, again, it's in your head like why are you freaking out? It's easy. it's hard for them to to say because if they never experienced it, anxiety or, or whatnot, but yes, their life is stressful, but they were able to like endure, you know? And for me it came to a point like a breaking point where I did the best I could, but then when, you break down you can't control what happens. So it's mainly my mom that I told about what was going on and so, and she then, that's how, you know, she felt bad that you're giving me expectations and going to school and get good grades. Like I really did my best to get good grades, you know? But it came somewhere a just so stressed out and then really push myself to the limits where, where it became unhealthy. And so that's when she learned to like kind of back off and just do the best, you know, don't have to get A, but just do, that's the way you don't sacrifice your health. You know, it's not worth it to sacrifice your health for something so meaningless, like, like money now we're trying to get, get more money, you know?

CF: What would you say you're most proud of coming up to this point?

TY: Most proud of just being where I am right now. Being to accomplish overcoming expectations, fears and just knowing who I am or who I am now. Because before again, it's being raised in just like expectations. Like maybe I was just living my life for my parents and whatnot, you know, but now I'm proud of who I am and who I've become and looking forward to, to greater growth and just being able to what I've accomplished so far. Cause ten years ago and like

towards that of high school or in college, if you were to told me I would have achieved or you know, this level of education and becoming a doctor, I probably would have laughed in your face. (laughs) I'd be like Yeah. I, that's not me. But you know, when you put your mind, when you know what you want, you always kind of make a priority. And to just do whatever it takes. Really. You know? And that's probably the biggest lessons. My family saw me. He's just doing whatever it takes, you know, they did whatever it took to take care of the family and me doing whatever it takes to get what I want, you know. And so by taking care of other people then I can kind of give back to the community and also give back to my family as well.

CF: So it's been quite a growing experience then for you?

TY: Always. Definitely.

CF: And that was a kind of bring things down to more of like a cultural aspect. are your family religious at all? Are you religious now?

TY: My, family they are Buddhists and so they are pretty religious in that sense. So they would go through with the, the ceremonies and the praying. So, you know, New Years is a pretty big deal. But yeah, we have a shrine alter for kind of, paying our respects to our ancestors and to like deceased family members. And growing up I didn't see the point of it and like, what's going on? Like I just have to bow or light incense. But not growing. Now that I'm older, I kind of understand, just kind of keeping a positive mindset no matter what hardships you go through, you know, you can just always ask for help or ask for blessings that good things will come your way and kind of more spiritual sense that everything be okay. You, it may be uncomfortable now, but in the long run you'll see the, the bigger picture.

CF: So now you're, religion is based more of like a spiritual idea. Then more than like a label of a, like a certain religion or anything?

TY: I guess I really never saw Buddhism as a religion is a way of life. More has more connection on, on like the spiritual aspect, you know, whether religious people believe in God or whatnot, you know, I just, I know that there is a higher power, people can call it God, but yeah, there's still something that kind of controls all life. Things happen a certain way. And a spiritual journey and about growing. It's just, yes, things are uncomfortable, but you can only grow and evolve when things get uncomfortable. And that teaching of like perspective, just having a different perspective, the same thing could happen to two people but their outlook can be different, you know, whether it could be negative and positive and always see thing on the positive aspect and it's kind of attract that positivity towards you.

CF: What would you say religion affected your lesson and your decisions?

TY: How religion affected my life affected my decisions? That's a good question. Let me think of that. (laughs) It's pretty deep

CF: If you would like to say more specifically like growing up, like as a child growing up as a child.

TY: Growing up as a child? I wasn't really involved any religion or any kind of like the spirituality concepts growing up. And I guess back then I was like kid, like kind of believe in like Atheism. Like that doesn't make sense. There is no god, everything you want to do, you can just make the choice to do it yourself. And then as I got older I start asking questions. Nothing can appear from nothing. Something had to happen to happen. It's like evolution. Okay. Well we've evolved from, from like from mammals and primates and all that, but it's like, how did you even get here on earth? Or you think about a book, a book doesn't just magically appear in your lap. He has to go through a process of like being built. And so why create us, I don't know. So I kind of like, there must be a higher power of role, you know, and you know, maybe science can't

prove everything right now, but it doesn't discredit what we can't explain. So I'm just Kinda, I guess me being close, minded growing up, but as I got older, more mature, became more open minded about different possibilities that's out there. And so just being able to see things from their perspective as, you know, shaped- trying to explain that question. (Laughs)

CF: I think you're good. (laughs) Well besides religion did your family celebrate like special occasions, like birthdays? You kind of mentioned going to your uncle's for New years. Was that the Lunar New Years?

TY: oh, yeah. Lunar New Year's. Yeah. So we'd celebrate that. and birthdays. Yeah, we celebrate birthdays. I think one of the things my mom mentioned saying from my grandma, it's like, oh, now that we're in America, we have to learn the culture, tradition of this country and then take part of it, you know? And so we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter not in like a religious sense, but it's like, Hey, I think a lot of the, the, the holidays, it's just revolved around family, a family gathering, you know, it's just another, another opportunity to, to bring people together and enjoy each other's company.

CF: Describe like a family dinner and I, one of these events. Did you together or what did you guys eat? I mean, you've mentioned that you guys did do thanksgiving. Was it kind of like a mix of the American?

TY: Yeah, it was a mix of American, the Asian cultures. I mean, we'd use turkey, but we, we prepared the turkey in an Vietnamese manner using different marinades and whatnot. And it would be an all day event. It wasn't just like Thanksgiving lunch or Thanksgiving dinner. We make Thanksgiving the whole day. And so my mom would spend a lot of time preparing the food, start cooking early in the morning and having the food done by like 11:30 AM or noon and based on people's scheduled, they will just kind of trickle in and now and eat throughout the day.

as a family, we never really sat down in ate altogether. That's just when you had time. And that was one thing that's like different growing up. I know some people would have family dinners together, but I just ate when it was convenient. It's like that to finish my homework. It's like I can reward myself with food. Hey, very rarely that you, me and my brothers and my, my mom and dad sat down at a dinner table and eat together. They're either working so they would just eat wherever you are on the way home or something like that. So I guess that's one thing that's different.

CF: Are there any special heirlooms or photos or any memorabilia that has been passed down by your family?

TY: Not that I remember her recall. Yeah.

CF: Most of the things we're kind of left in Vietnam then or do they not have as much?

TY: Yeah, I guess if any that were about to be passed down, probably just stayed back in Vietnam I guess is very limited. What they were able to bring over here, but growing up and being in the same house, I don't recall seeing anything being passed down from generation generation.

CF: Speaking from coming from Vietnam, your family coming from Vietnam, were any of your members involved in the war that you're aware of?

TY: I know my father was involved in the Vietnam War, but he doesn't talk about it much. It could be traumatizing or whatnot, are not like a, a good time in his life. And that's all I know about any family members being involved in work. It's just just my dad.

CF: And what are your feelings on the subject? Would you like to know more one day?

TY: I would like to know one day. It's part of the family history and to keep it going. So I don't want that to get lost. That's it's part of our identity going or history. You'd be, they'll know then

things get lost in not knowing where you came from or what happened, what happened to, be where you're at right now. And so, so one day when he opened up and share.

CF: Growing up, I mean, mentioning that your brothers are a were born in Vietnam and you were born here. Was there any major differences do you say? Or would you say are any clear differences between first and second generation?

TY: Between me and my brothers, I don't see any major differences. They came over to America at a young age too. And so I feel like we all have the same opportunity. It's kind of hard. I'm still trying to understand what it means by like versus first generation or second generation. It's kind of a little difficult. it's kind of.

CF: We're just summering up things a little bit more right now. Just kind of going and doing this interview and things like that. What do you think is the most important thing for, like future of Vietnamese Americans to kind of understand about their, their history and heritage?

TY: The biggest thing is knowing the history and knowing where they came from and knowing that they have a choice. Understand where you came from, but you don't, you're not trapped here in a box. Right. And just to really find your true identity while still respecting, you know, your family and your culture is as well to not living your life for someone else's life.

CF: Did you still feel pretty strongly connected to your heritage growing up? Even having not visited Vietnam, would you say?

TY: a good part of my life was just spent at home, my grandma. And so here are stories or participating in, in the, the family ceremonies. So it's a lot of the things they did here was what they would be doing in Vietnam too. And so through their actions, I feel I get a better understanding of what it was like in Vietnam without actually being there.

CF: Was there ever any like conflict between like being American and Vietnamese or anything, any kind of identity conflict growing up at all?

TY: I mean, guess being born of here, it makes me an American, but still being raised in a family, you know, being Vietnamese American and see any difficulties in that manner. I don't know if people will treat me differently, but pretty smooth.

CF: Pretty positive?

TY: Yeah

CF: Okay well, ust to summarize, is there anything else you would like to talk about that we haven't?

TY: No, I think we've tackled a lot, family history, career school and how it shapes someone's identity and as a person, so.

CF: All right. Good. Well, thank you so much for all of this.

TY: Yeah, I thank you for your time.

CF: Thank you.

[End of transcription]