Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC, Irvine

Narrator: DUC NGUYEN

Interviewer: Ryan Ha

Date: March 2, 2012

Location: Fountain Valley, California

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012

Length of Interview: 01:10:19

**Time Log**

00:00:27 He introduces himself talking about where and when he was born.

00:00:52 He gives us his mothers and fathers name and their occupation as well as their education level.

00:01:58 He talks about where he grew up: majority of the time in Vietnam and the rest Virginia and Texas.

00:02:32 He describes his childhood up into the fall of Saigon as normal, middle class.

00:03:15 He explains his life after the fall of Saigon as difficult because his family lost their home and his parents lost their business.

00:04:14 He describes the fall of Saigon his and his families boat escape, and his experience coming to America as the most prevalent memories from his childhood.

00:05:36 He begins describing his initial experience in U.S. as a 9th grade student as well as his subsequent years in high school.
He discusses his higher education background and the kinds of jobs he’s had over his life, since graduating.

He decides to go back to school for a degree in mass communications from UC Berkeley.

Talks about his brother and sister and what they are doing now.

Talks about his family, his wife and son.

Talks about what happened to his family at the end of the war.

Describes his feelings of leaving Vietnam, feeling of entering refugee camp and feelings of coming to America.

Explains how it was easier to adapt to a new country and culture than it was for his parents.

Begins talking about his process of leaving Vietnam and how his father was an organizer for a boat escape.

Second attempt to escape goes wrong and forced to go back to Vietnam.

Caught and sent to a detention camp for a month.

Third attempt to leave Vietnam by boat and rescued by U.S. Navy.

Begins to talk about time in refugee camp in Thailand.

Explains daily routines in the refugee camp.

Talks about things done for fun to pass the time by in the camp.

Talks about Thai police and how they would harass refugees.

Talks about his extended family, aunts uncles grandfathers and where they are now.

Begins talking about his first impressions coming to the U.S.
Begins talking about how his mother and father supported him and what kinds of jobs they had.

Explains the challenges coming to the U.S such as language and adapting to a different culture.

His experiences with racism.

Talks about his citizenship and what the process was like.

Explains why he is grateful for getting his citizenship.

Explains why he votes and why it’s important to him.

Talks about the documentary he is working on that has to do with the stateless.

Talks about extended family in Vietnam.

Experience coming back to Vietnam and why he wanted to go.

Talks about how the experience helped him discover who he was and what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

Talks about traditions and what he thinks of them and they mean to him as he grew older.

Describes his involvement in the Vietnamese community.

Explains why history is the most important thing for future generations to learn about.

Explains how history and culture you can help you find an identity in society.

Talks about how he found his identity and how he defines himself as a Vietnamese American.