**Narrator:** PHU DO NGUYEN  
**Interviewer:** Thuy Vo Dang  
**Date:** November 8, 2010  
**Location:** Westminster, California  
**Sub-Collection:** Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation 500 Oral Histories  
**Length of Interview:** 01:10:27  
**Time Log by:** Viola Van

### Time Log

**Track 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:00:14</td>
<td>Introduction of Nguyen Do Phu by Thuy Vo Dang</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:00:31</td>
<td>Phu Do Nguyen was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:01:39</td>
<td>He grew up before the war (1975), his father wanted to become a math teacher, but the war forced him to become a soldier. His mom was a kindergarten teacher and he had 2 brothers and 1 sister. He had a good childhood before 1975 and before his father died.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:02:00</td>
<td>Nguyen’s father died in 1974 in the war as a casualty of war. Drastic change happened to his family when the communist took over in 1975 during the war</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:04:00</td>
<td>Grew up in a great neighborhood where he played with his friends. He went to private school because he flunked out of public school. (Le guy dong - school). Attended a French oriented school (Aurore school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:04:24</td>
<td>He can understand French, fluent in English and Vietnamese, and can speak conversational Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:05:21</td>
<td>Brother was hyper so father used to scold and sister was sweet, no particular skills, very obedient as kids growing up in war-torn Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:06:02</td>
<td>Nguyen talked about growing up in his house in Saigon</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:06:36</td>
<td>Speaking about growing up in a middle-class family in Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:07:24</td>
<td>Nguyen talks about the education level in his family and where his parents are from</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:07:56</td>
<td>Max exodus happened to his parents after 1974</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
00:09:07 Distinction about his family name and how he was named after a famous poet in Chinese; his father really enjoyed Chinese poetry

00:11:11 April 30, 1975 Nguyen remembers where he was during that date, what he was doing at the time, and the procedures that took place when the communist took over

00:12:22 Nguyen explains the emotions he was feeling at the time when the communist took over and what happened in Saigon after the communist takeover

00:13:07 Nguyen talks about other casualties of war on both sides of his family

00:14:57 Dramatic changes started to happen after 1975: money issues, making money, selling to help family, and rationing

00:15:51 Mother kept her job as a kindergarten teacher after communist take over; many family came from the North came down to the South – wealth and happiness of South Vietnamese people vs. propaganda portrayed by the North of the South Vietnamese

00:17:30 Nguyen talks about his lack of interactions with Americans except his cousin who is married to Peter Barnett and what he knew about Americans/American products

00:17:31 Nguyen talks about what made his family want to leave Vietnam after 1975

Track 2

00:01:21 Nguyen felt like he always had to lie in school about the communist regime; He realized he did not like communists

00:02:18 He talked about how he escaped Vietnam

00:03:00 He explains why he was the only one that left Vietnam first

00:03:51 He explains the specs of the boat and how long he was on it

00:04:44 Nguyen talked about how he was not sure where he was headed and how he encountered pirates and what they did aboard the ship

00:06:12 He explained what happened after the robbing of the pirates and his arrival in Malaysia

00:07:17 He explains how he was able to see the “good and bad” side of people in Malaysia and how the Malaysians welcomed him and the rest of the illegal immigrants
He talked about how he felt during his boat passage

Nguyen explains what life was like in the refugee camps

He talks about the bonds he formed, what he did in the refugee camp, and the positives and negatives that happened within the refugee camp

Nguyen talks about how long he was there for and the program he got admitted under via the U.S. government

He explains his sponsorship process and the help he received

He talks about his time of arrival in the U.S., San Francisco

He talks about how he didn’t know much English and what he thought of America

He explains his first impression of Little Saigon in Southern California and the schooling he received in California

Nguyen talks about the challenges he faced during the early period of when he came to the U.S.

Track 3

Nguyen explains the language barrier he had in grade school

He talks about his favorite memories of high school

He explains how the rest of his family got to the U.S. via boat escape and family sponsorship and the refugee camps they stayed in

He talks about how he had a great time in high school

He talks about experiencing difficulties with racism in high school and the demographics at the time in high school

He explains what he did after high school and why he picked Cal Poly Pomona as his college over the others he got into

He explains where he lived in college and how he came to terms with not liking his engineering major to changing to management major and how Richard Nixon’s book inspired him to take ROTC in college and how he did not change his birth name

He talks about how he was self-taught about the Vietnam War and his views on the war
00:15:39 He talks about his management major at Cal Poly Pomona
00:17:07 He talks about what is important in keeping with his Vietnamese heritage and what he thinks is unique about the Vietnamese culture that he would like to pass on to the next generation

Track 4
00:01:31 Nguyen continues to talk about the values of keeping the Vietnamese culture alive and what it means to be an American
00:04:20 He explains what happens when your roots/language gets eradicated and what he thinks is the most important life experience to him is
00:05:47 Nguyen explains how he met his wife and what she does for a living
00:06:05 He talks about his children
00:06:41 He reminisces about his life and puts things in perspective about how life had treated him pretty well
00:09:56 Nguyen talks about what he does for a living and what he does on the weekend as an army reserves “JAG” officer
00:11:34 He explains the challenges he faces in representing the Vietnamese American community in the work field
00:12:42 He explains what he thinks about how the history of South East Asia is being taught in the U.S.
00:13:38 He explains how he will guide his children in learning about their history and American history
00:14:41 He explains why it is important to be do what you feel most passionate about and not only focus on money
00:16:09 He talks about his visits back to Vietnam and how/what he felt and feels about Vietnam now

Track 5
00:01:13 Nguyen continues to talk about what he feels about Vietnam now and where he has stayed and what his children think about Vietnam