Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: STEVE PHAM
Interviewer: David Liu
Date: February 23, 2013
Location: Garden Grove, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories 2013
Length of Interview: 01:52:53

Time Log

00:00:10-Steve introduces himself with his biographical information
00:00:45-Begins to talk about parents and his dad being involved in the military
00:02:40-Talks about the Communism taking over and how he felt he had no life in Communistic Vietnam.
00:03:49-Being transferred to Malaysia and his interview for applying for refugee status and how he was only asked about his dad and not himself.
00:04:42-Talks about dealing with pressure and making the best out of the situation you’re in.
00:07:11-Giving back to the community because he wants to repay back society for taking him in and providing him opportunities
00:09:50 -9/11 and its impact on his allegiance and love for America
00:11:07 -Going to the city asking to volunteer
00:12:39 - How to be involved with the police department for civic and community service
00:16:03 - Understanding how his people skills come into play
00:17:03- Hurricane Katrina and applying for a job at the Red Cross
00:21:39 - The American Red Cross and the Asian Pacific Islander community
00:22:38 - Finds out program at the Red Cross is terminating and then finds a job at Horizon
00:26:40 - Talks about doing community outreach with the PD and the meaning of freedom
00:28:30 -Recalls on him trying to leave on a boat and being caught by the police
00:34:12 - Recalls being interrogated by the police after being caught trying to escape
00:39:24 - Steve talks about his faith and how sometimes he doubts his belief in God
00:42:35 - Talks about his last boat escape experience which is successful and ending up on the refugee camp

00:49:06 - Cameo appearance by Vanna, his wife

00:52:40 - Talks about the release of his dad and the conversation he has with him about what his job was

01:03:20 - Talks about volunteering with the Asian American community

01:07:35 - Discuss assimilation issues when he first moved in with his American family

01:09:54 - Talking about politics and how it wasn’t him and his first experience back in Vietnam

01:10:50 - American family and how they taught him how to make a life for himself

01:17:10 - Talks about his wife’s experience as a refugee

01:18:10 - The importance of education and what it means to be educated

01:19:54 - Talks about his job at Horizon and how he helps immigrants assimilate to America

01:22:05 - Recalls how his American mom took him to collect social welfare for refugee status but challenged him not to declare and collect benefits and go find a job

01:25:40 - First pay check and how his American family got him his first paycheck

01:29:30 - Talks about one experience with a 17 year old who went in for correctional services and counseling

01:38:10 - Reflects about the importance of the Vietnam War and Communism’s impact on government.

01:42:50 - Talks about traditions in Vietnam during the war and the bodies of soldiers and dead civilians

01:45:30 - Talks about the Asian American vision and the community and how it is to grow and become stronger through forgiving and forgetting.

01:48:30 - Cultural competence in law enforcement especially with Asian communities

01:50:40 - Immigrant integration and cultural competence, cultural orientation