

**INTERNATIONAL  
SERVICE CENTER**



# Elderly Vietnamese Naturalization Rate: Very Low In Early 80's

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# Major Problems: Language Barrier



# And Cultural Barrier: Longing For Home



# ISC's 1st Family Reunification: Citizenship Interest Increased

B8—The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, March 8, 1985

## Vietnamese teen, family reunited

By BARKER HOWLAND  
Staff Writer

Happiness for Son Minh Ho, 19, is being reunited with his mother.

Son, a freshman at Pennsylvania State University's Mont Alto Campus, had not seen his parents since 1981, when he left Vietnam for the United States under sponsorship of the Indo-Chinese Service Center in the Market Square Presbyterian Church.

On Wednesday, his mother, Tam Minh Thi Le; sister, Huong Thien Ho, 16, and brother, Lam Dang Ho, 14, arrived at Harrisburg International Airport after a flight from Indonesia, where they had lived in a refugee camp for the last nine months. Still in Vietnam is Ho's father, Dr. Ngu Ho, a physician, who has been unable to leave.

The Indo-Chinese Service Center this weekend will be busy settling the family in Harrisburg. Son is planning to come up every weekend from Mont Alto, where he is majoring in computer science, to be with his relatives.

Asked how it felt to see her oldest son after the four-year separation, Tam replied, "He looked very nice, very cute, very good. There are many opportunities in America for him to improve himself. I'm very thankful to America and the American people that we are here."

Son has been trying to get his mother, sister and brother to the United States ever since he arrived. The new arrivals, who are

Buddhists, "will be fasting on vegetables for a while out of gratitude to Buddha for getting to the United States," he said.

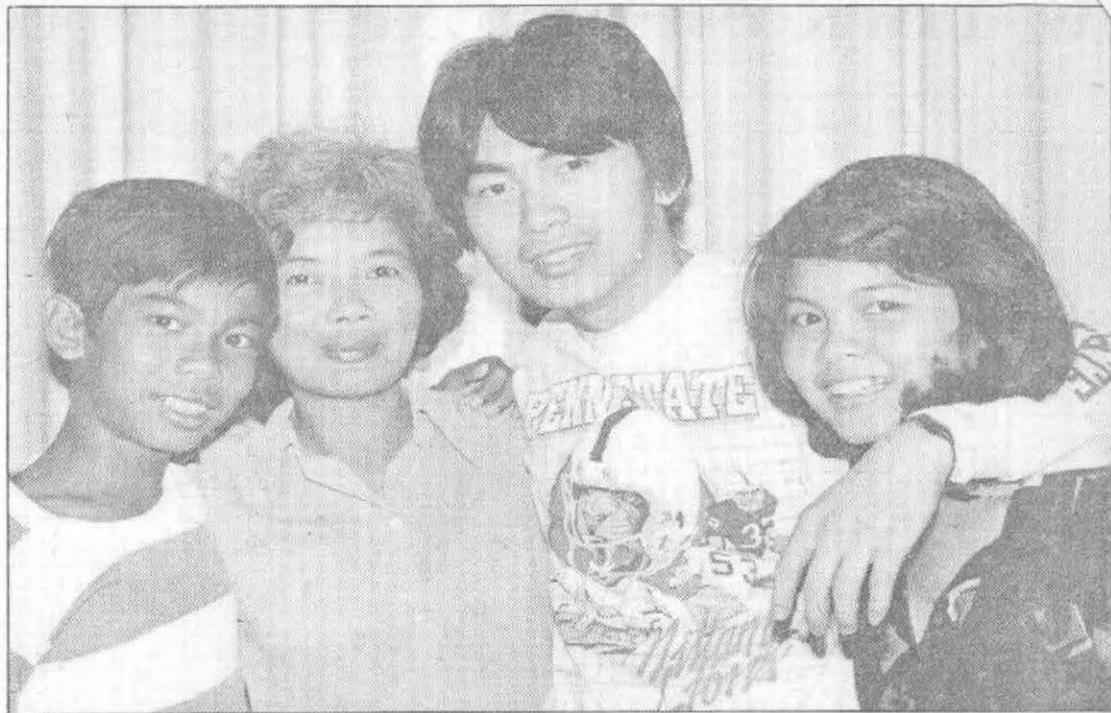
Speaking through an interpreter, Charles Cuong Nguyen, a caseworker at the center, Son's mother told a story of robbery and bribery that confronted her and other refugees since leaving Vietnam nearly 10 months ago.

"About 3 a.m. in the morning my children and I sneaked out of our home and went to a small island to rendezvous with other Vietnamese hoping to get to Indonesia," she said. "We stayed on the island a day, and then at 8 o'clock at night our boat started off for Indonesia. We didn't have a map, and the boat was a river boat and not built for ocean travel.

"We were stopped by a government ship and we were robbed by the government officials. This first time they took everybody's jewelry, but they fixed the engine of our boat and gave us some fresh water.

"The next day we met another government ship and they took everything that the people had left after being robbed the first time. Again they gave us fresh water.

"Then in another day a third government ship stopped us. We had nothing to give them so they made us sign promissory notes so they could go back to members of families left behind and get a payoff. On those notes we had to write that the government officials treated us very well and



—Patriot-News photo/Norman Arnold

From left, Lam Dang Ho, Tam Minh Thi Le, Son Minh Ho and Huong Thien Ho

were our benefactors."

There was more bribery to come. After six days at sea the group reached Java and met some Indonesians guarding the boat who demanded three ounces of gold in payment for allowing them to come into the harbor. Without that much gold, they were forced to go out into the ocean, where they spent the night.

The next day they met the same Indonesians and negotiated and paid the bribe. When they arrived in port they had to pay a bribe of 1 ounce of gold, the last

the boat people had, to Indonesian policemen who then took them to Kuko Island. Tam and her children stayed there for 17 days.

Last June the family was moved to a camp at Galang, where they remained until leaving for their new home in Harrisburg. Son was able to send them some money, and it arrived just in time.

Tam became ill and had to go to a hospital. The money Son sent paid her hospital expenses and helped feed them.

There are 12,000 to 13,000

people in the camp at Galang and conditions are not good, she said. "A lot of people have tuberculosis, and the longer you stay in the camp, the chances of contracting TB are greater and greater."

"When I learned I was going to the United States I was extremely happy. I knew that I would now get the right medicines. We're very happy, but we're also sad because my husband is still in Vietnam."

Son said the family now will try to get his father to the United States.

# Naturalization Information Sessions





## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

21 South River Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Telephones: (717) 236-9401, (717) 236-1523, (717) 236-8411

Fax: (717) 236-3821 Email: [tap@isc76.org](mailto:tap@isc76.org) Website: [www.isc76.org](http://www.isc76.org)

# “Citizenship Information Session”

**When: Friday, August 12, 10 AM – 12 PM**

**Where: International Service Center  
21 S River Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101**

### Step Up to Citizenship

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Find out if you are eligible by attending a FREE information session	Gather documents & fee	Attend a Citizenship Application Review Session with qualified attorneys

### Topics covered at this FREE session include:

- Citizenship/Naturalization Process
  - Naturalization Test
  - Fee Waiver Eligibility
- Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship

To register, call (717) 236-9401 or email Tuan Bui at [tuan@isc76.org](mailto:tuan@isc76.org)



# Community Orientation: Naturalization Procedures



# Citizenship Test Preparation Information

## *Becoming American: From Refugee to Citizen*

*Proceedings of the  
1998 National Conference  
Office of Refugee Resettlement*

### Naturalization Preparation Materials

This CD includes application information, ethics and citizenship multimedia resources, and naturalization test study materials.

For the latest version of Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). To obtain USCIS forms, call 1-800-870-3676.

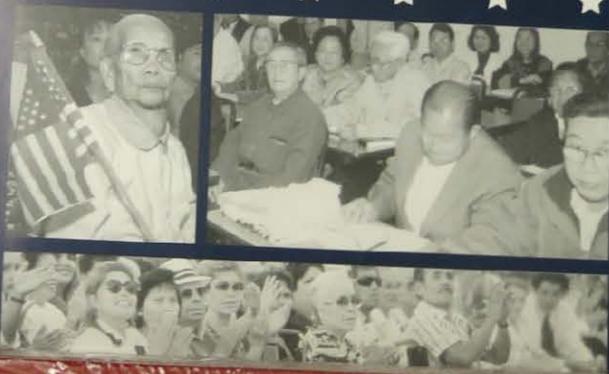


U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

M-750 (03/11)

## Citizenship For Refugee Elders:

Issues & Options in Test Preparation



## Civics Flash Cards

for the New Naturalization Test



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

M-623 (rev. 07/09)

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service presents

## HOW TO HELP A FAMILY MEMBER IMMIGRATE



# Civic English As A Second Language Classes



# Group Citizenship Application Assistance



Medicare

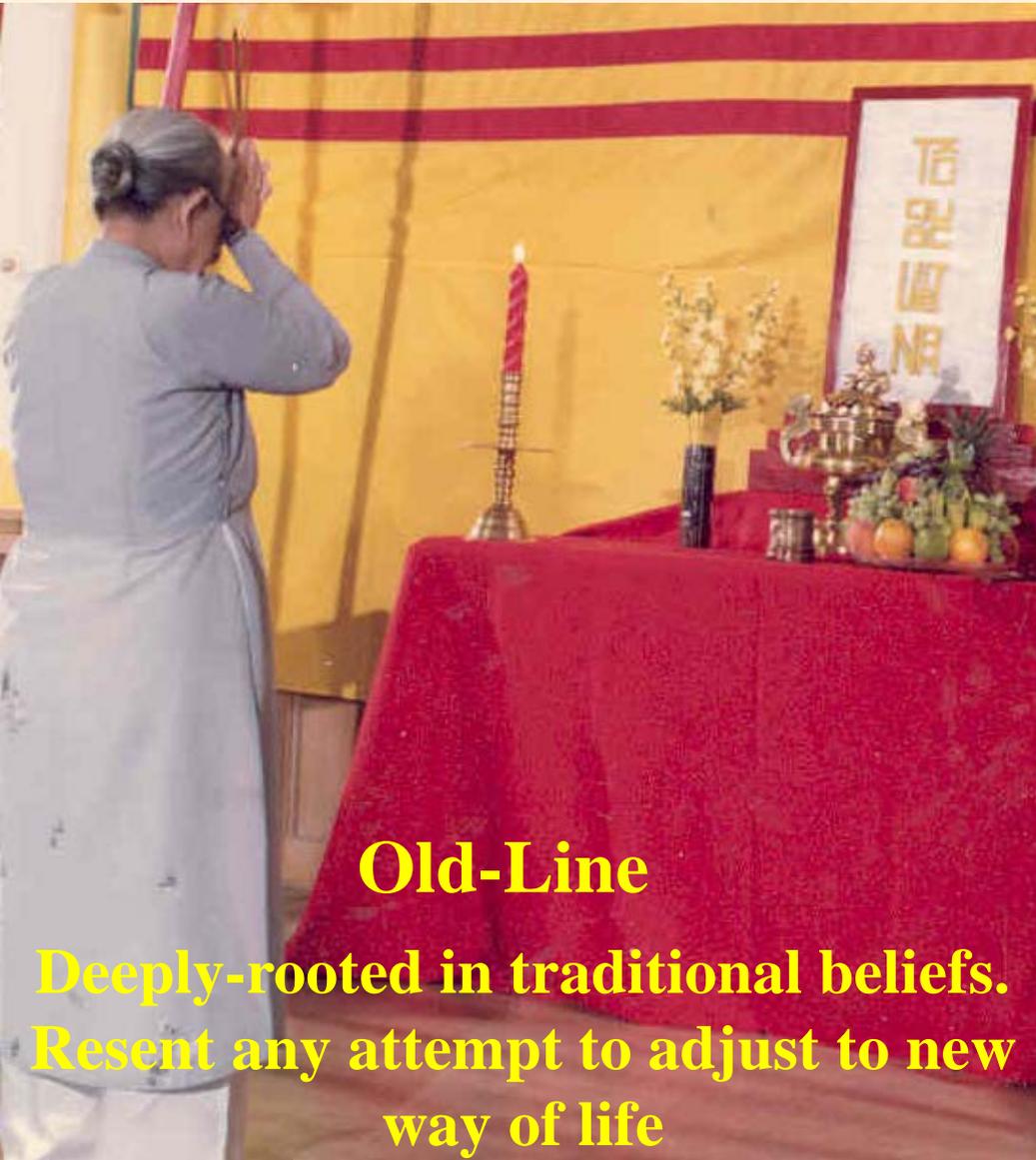
# Individual Citizenship Application Assistance



Citizenship Test Waiver (50 + 20 Rule)

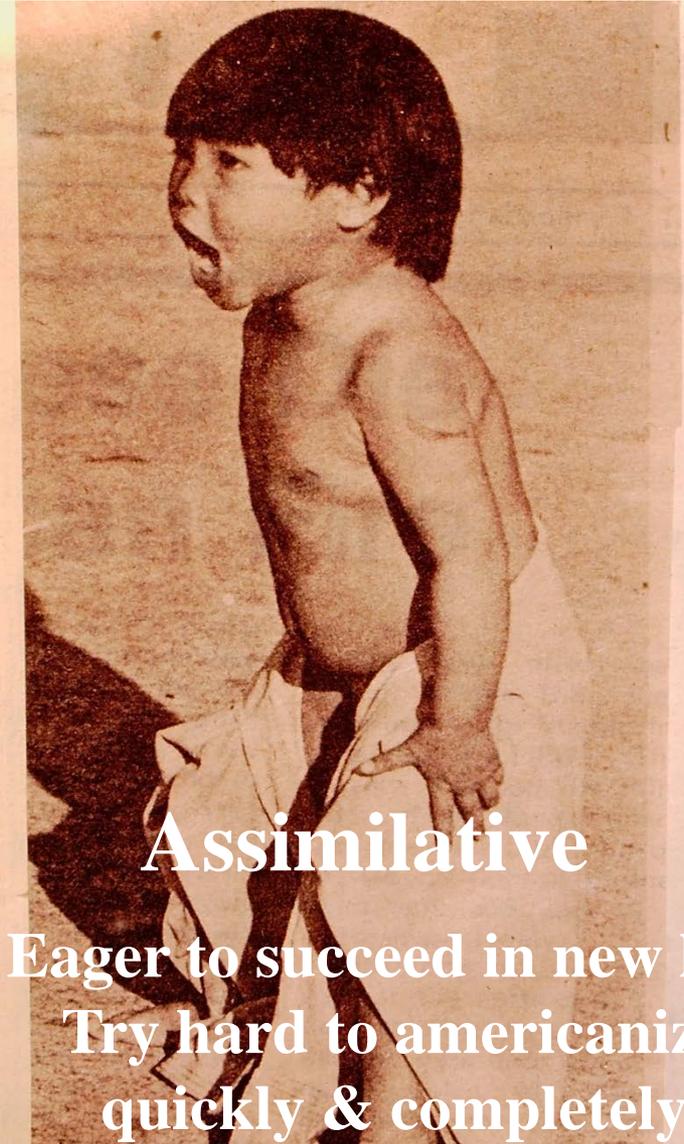
# Inter-Generational Conflicts (VN in 90's)

## Social Adjustment Patterns



### Old-Line

Deeply-rooted in traditional beliefs.  
Resent any attempt to adjust to new  
way of life



### Assimilative

Eager to succeed in new life.  
Try hard to americanize  
quickly & completely

# Connecting Young & Old Generations



Old people have been young once, and young people will be old one day

# Connecting Refugee Elderly And Youth (CREY)

## Inter-Generational Mutual Support

### Youth Leadership Training Program



Bringing Lonely Elderly Refugees And Assertive Unaccompanied Minors Together  
Mutual Sharing of Knowledge and Wisdom With English Fluency and Familiarity In New Environment

# CREY: Citizenship Test Practice



Young Volunteers Assisted Homebound Elderly Practice Citizenship Test

# Peer-Coaching By Naturalized Refugees



# Peer-Coaching: Bosnian Group Orientation



# Bosnian Citizenship Application Preparation



Individual Citizenship Application

# Peer-Coaching: Russian Group Orientation



# Russian Citizenship Application Preparation



Individual Citizenship Application

# Peer-Coaching: Somali Elderly Refugees



# Peer-Coaching: Buthanese Elderly Refugees



# New Citizens Day: Voters Registration



# Voter's Registration Card Awards



**THE END**

**End**