

# Spring 2021 Veterans Project

Northport Public School in collaboration with the Omena Historical Society

# Nhia Yia Hang

*AvA Rice*

Historical Context: Back in 1955 at the young age of 24 my grandfather Nhia Yia was recruited to join The United States Central Intelligence Agency secret army in Laos.

He was a spy undercover to gather intelligence on the enemy and to report back to base. Risking his life everyday for the benefit of the US, he did as told for his family and freedom.



My grandfather is the bottom right

- When the US withdrew from the conflict in 1974 and left Saigon in 1975, my grandfather and his family were left behind with his children (one of them being my mother.) Forced to make a dangerous journey across the Mekong river to reach Thailand, my grandfather escaped.
- Going in groups, Nhia Yia and 40 others as young as newborns made it across.
- Not everyone survived but they tried with immense effort.

**"All the News That's Fit to Print"**

# The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION  
Weather: Continued mostly cloudy, cool, windy, foggy and overcast. Temperature range today 44-61; Tuesday 45-63; Details on Page 11.

VOL. CXXIV, No. 42,810      60th Year      NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975      20 CENTS

## MINH SURRENDERS, VIETCONG IN SAIGON; 1,000 AMERICANS AND 5,500 VIETNAMESE EVACUATED BY COPTER TO U.S. CARRIERS

**U.S. GREECE AGREE TO END HOME PORT FOR THE 6TH FLEET**  
Air Base of Americans at Athens to Also Close, but Some Facilities Remain

**FORD UNITY PLEA**  
President Says That Departure 'Closes a Chapter' for U.S.

**END OF DEFENSE**  
Troops Leave Posts in Capital and Turn in Their Weapons

By JOHN W. FINNEY  
Special to The Times

WASHINGTON, April 29—The United States ended two decades of military involvement in Vietnam today with the evacuation of about 1,000 Americans from Saigon, as well as more than 5,500 South Vietnamese.

The emergency helicopter rescue operation in the capital city was ordered last night by President Ford after the Saigon airport was closed.

Ford's statement and excerpts from Kissinger's, Page 17.

because of Communist rocket and artillery fire. The 1,000 Americans were the last contingent of a force that once numbered more than 500,000.

They were carried by a fleet of 81 American helicopters in Vietnam flag and carrying carriers in the South China Sea night, clearing more to civilian.

The helicopters removed the 3,000 South Vietnamese children because their lives were threatened by the danger with

A Communist take-over of South Vietnam. Over the last two weeks, a total of about 100,000 South Vietnamese have been rescued. Most of them will come to the United States.

The Vietnam flag was raised over the presidential palace at

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, April 30—President Jimmy V. Ford announced the end of the Saigon Government's evacuation of about 1,000 Americans from Saigon, as well as more than 5,500 South Vietnamese.

Columns of South Vietnamese troops pulled out of their duty stations in the capital city today and marched to central points to turn in their weapons.

In Washington, the White House said that President Ford had "no comment" on the surrender of Saigon, but a White House spokesman said the surrender was a "complete and final victory" for the United States.

Troops Move In  
Within two hours, Communist forces began moving in to Saigon and a group flying the flag and carrying carriers in the South China Sea night, clearing more to civilian.

The first of President Ford's children is on Page 16.

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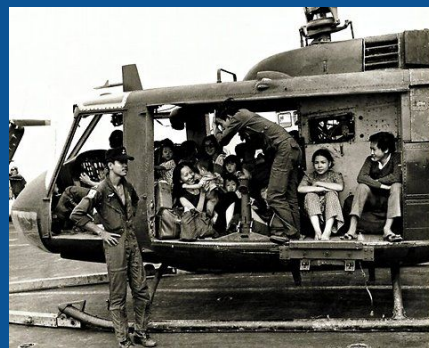
The Vietnam flag was raised over the presidential palace at

**Abram Offers Bills To Curtail Abuse Of Nursing Homes**

**CAMBODIA ORDERS FOREIGNERS OUT**

**74 Saigon Planes Fly 2,000 to Thailand**  
By DAVID A. ANDERMAN

...and the planes were loaded... with leading to night fall.



April 30, 1975 - the Fall of Saigon

# After the War...

- In the late 1970s, Nhia Yia applied to immigrate into America and was accepted. In the winter of 1978 he moved to Pennsylvania with his family.
- After most of his kids moving out, my grandparents moved to Owosso, MI. My family moved up to Leelanau County and carry my grandfather's memory with us.
- Living here for the rest of his life, he never really minded staying on a farm, which was what he enjoyed. I remembered playing games on the TV and he would walk in and out of pure respect my cousins and I would turn it off and let him watch TV.

# Pics



In Owosso where we went to for the farmers market and sell veggies from their garden

