

Classification Talk

June 13, 2019

THAI VUE

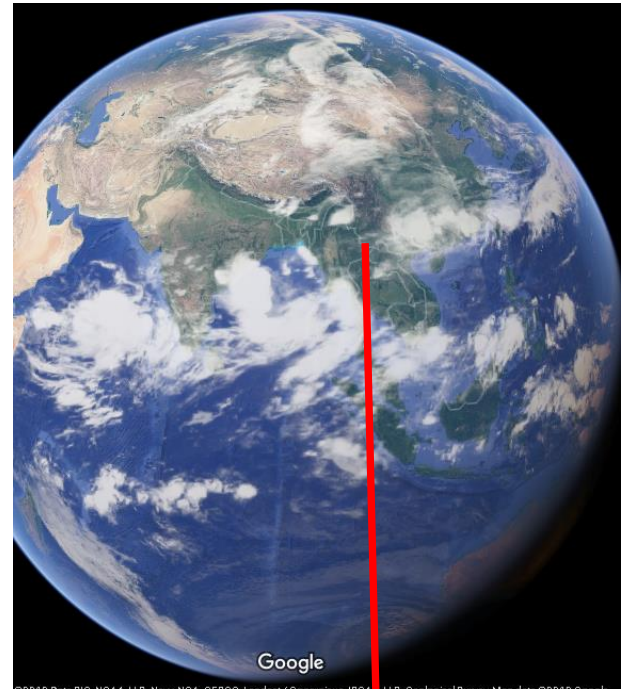
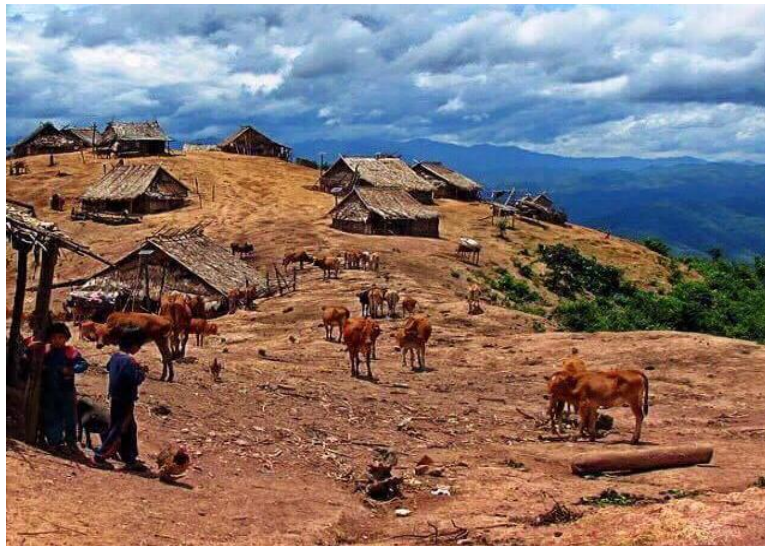
“From the mountain of
Laos to the United States
of America”

THAI VUE

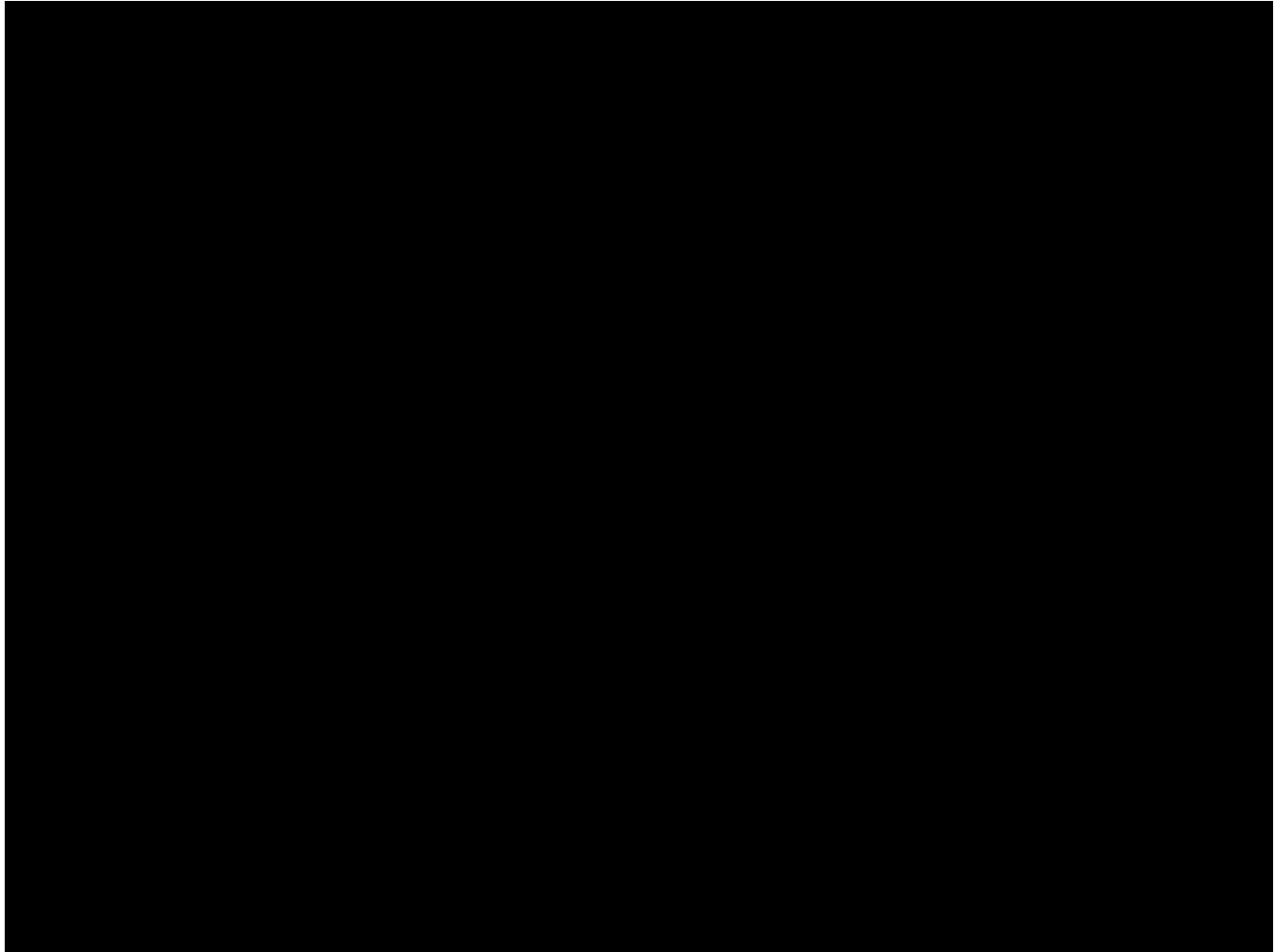
Born, May 25, 1953

Laos

“From mountains of
Laos to United States”



Few words from President Clinton



Attended Grade School

- Attended grade school at the age of 12 years old
- Attended grade school in 1966
- 12 years old in 1st grade
- Age was not the factor in getting into school
- Everyone started school in grade one no matter the age
- Children age 6 years old to 7 years old did not have chance to go to school

Military Service

- Entered the Royal Lao Army in 1972
- Military Region 2
- Regiment 25
- Battalion 225
- Company 1
- Under the U.S.A. Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) Operation – The CIA Secret Army



Got Married



- Met my wife Ka Ying Xiong in the Fall of 1974
- Married in January 19, 1976
- Our first child was born in October 1976

Communist Took Over

Communist took over Laos in 1975, political prosecution was sought against and the Royal Laos military in which result in the civil war against the Communist government



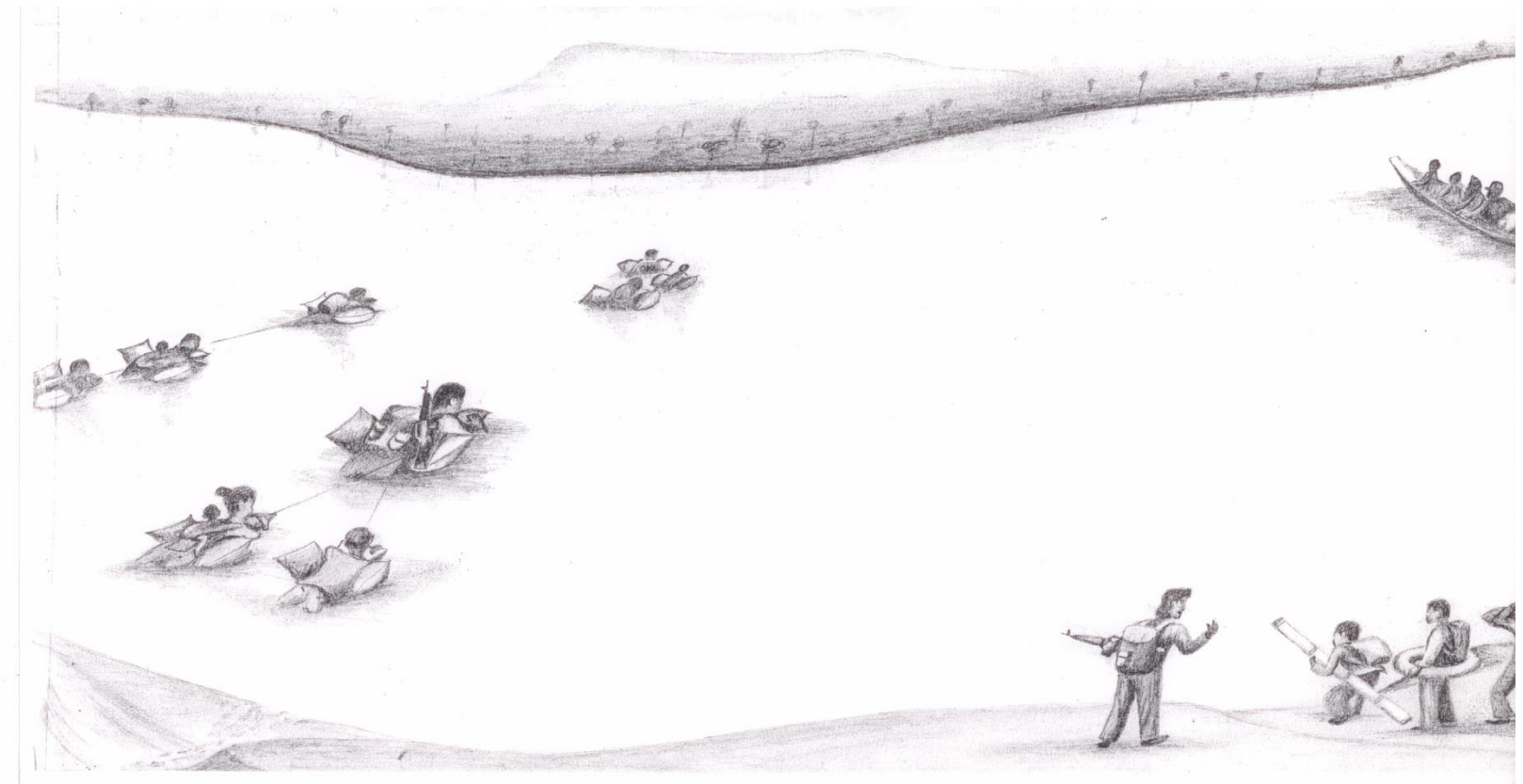
Political Suffering

Many of the Royal Lao Military families who against the Communist government died in starvation and Communist guns



Escape of Political Prosecution

Crossing the Mekong River
in June 22, 1978 to Thailand



Life in the Refugee Camp

- Spend 16 months in the refugee camp
- Left for the United States in September 3, 1979

Arriving to the United States

in September 7, 1979

To Madison, Wisconsin



- Started working after three weeks of arriving
- From 1980 – 1988, 5 children were born: totaling 3 boys and 3 girls
- From 2000 – 2014, three children have been married
- From 2000 – 2017, 8 grand children were born

New Beginning in the United States

Machine Tool Training

Tulsa Vo-Tech, Tulsa, OK

1981



Data Processing Training

Western Technical College

1983-1985



The Jobs That Changed Personal and Professional Life

- La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. (LHMAA) – 1986 to 2010, 24 years
- Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. (WUCMAA) – 2012 to 2019, 7 years



LHMAA

What is LHMAA?

- LHMAA stands for La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. , a community based organization set up by the refugees to serve refugees. This type of organization is called the “Mutual Assistance Association (MAA)”. Large cities where refugee settled, there will be at least one MAA or more...

MAA Services Includes, but not limited to:

- Employment and job training
- Language services
- Domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and intervention
- Driver education and transportation
- Conflict resolution training
- Cultural preservation
- Home safety and fire prevention
- Business education and development
- Food pantry
- Leadership training

WUCMAA

What is WUCMAA?

- WUCMAA stands for Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.
- WUCMAA was founded by 10 Hmong MAAs in Wisconsin
- It was founded to unite the MAAs, advocates, and provides training and programs necessary to support its MAAs.
- WUCMAA currently has 11 501c3 Hmong non-profit organizations across Wisconsin
- WUCMAA is similar to United Way

What are some of the specific works WUCMAA do at the present time?

- Educates legislators on issues impacting the Hmong and Asian communities in Wisconsin annually
- Hosts statewide conference and training for MAAs, other service providers in serving the Hmong and other Asians here in Wisconsin
- Provides Health and mental health education
- Provides small business revolving loan fund
- Works with the state to develop annually plan for refugees, Hmong health, and mental health services

WUCMAA Organizational Members

*Hmong American Association of Portage
County, Inc.
Stevens Point*

*Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc.
Milwaukee*

*Hmong American Partnership of Fox Valley,
Inc.
Appleton*

*Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of
Sheboygan, Inc.
Sheboygan*

*United Asian Services of Wisconsin, Inc.
Madison*

*United States Special Guerilla Service Unite
Manitowoc*

*Hmong American Center, Inc.
Wausau*

*Shee Yee Community of Milwaukee, Inc.
Milwaukee*

*Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
Wisconsin Rapids*

*Wisconsin Hmong Chamber of
Commerce, Inc.
Milwaukee*

*Hmoob Cultural and Community Agency,
Inc.
La Crosse*

The Growth of LHMAA

- Moved Hmong refugees from public welfare cash assistance to employment
- Moved the Hmong families from renting to about 50% home owners
- Social and cultural advancement
- Moved LHMAA from the basement of Our Savior's Lutheran Church to a \$3 million Hmong Cultural and Community Center



The Growth of WUCMAA

- Greater state government advocacy roles & participation



Some Other Journey of My Life

La Crosse School District Board of Education 1993 -96



Cathy Acherman of the Tribune staff

CELEBRATION: Thai Vue and his wife, Kaying, celebrate Vue's election Tuesday to the La Crosse School Board. Vue and a Wausau school candidate became the first Hmongs elected to public office in Wisconsin. **Story / B-1.**



President William Clinton



President George W. Bush



Vice President Albert Gore



Thank You

- I thank your ancestors for their sacrifices to make this country a better place for me, my family, and the Hmong.
- I thank the people of the United States for giving us a chance to rebuild our lives and certainly have gain a greater life than our lives in Laos.
- I thank each of you for your brother and sister hoods, took us and gave us the chance and support us. Those compassions are what make us better people.
- We are learning to carry on your tradition so we can make life better for us and for others.
- I have officially retired as May 31st, 2019.
- I am still helping the new executive director for the next few weeks and I will be on my way to my retiring profession like many of us here.
- I am hoping to have a better opportunity to fulfill my rotary duties in the future now.
- I will end my talk with recognizing few long term volunteers who have help WUCMAA, especially, with its tobacco prevention and control program over the years. This program helped reduce Hmong adult smoking rate from 21% in 2001 to 6% in 2014.