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# Facebook post reunites...forty-eight years later

worked as many as twenty hours per day at three jobs.

“His assimilation into life in the United States went smoothly, except when we helped him get a car and began to teach him how to drive. In the past, Hoa had only driven a jeep around South Da Nang; and the Vietnamese drove very fast, avoiding booby traps, and certainly not following any laws! As time went on, more and more Vietnamese refugees moved into the area. Eventually, Hoa moved into a home rented by several Vietnamese and began another phase of his life. A short while later, Hoa

learned that some of his Vietnamese friends were in New Orleans, and he relocated once more,” Rushing said.

By letter correspondence and a visit back to Fairfax, Hoa kept in touch with the Rushings. Hoa’s education level in Vietnam was the equivalent of two years’ of college. He eventually enrolled at Tulane University. As he got busy with his studies and Lt. Col. Rushing got busy with new assignments in other places, contact got lost.

Fast forward to 2019: Hoa, over the years, had tried to find the Rushings. Since he remembered the children, he, by chance, finally made contact

with Pam Rushing Parks McCord, the youngest (CHS class of 1982) on Facebook. The rest is history.

“By email and telephone, a friendship was rekindled -- not a normal friendship, by any stretch; and one with many adversities (especially on Hoa’s part), but one with deep affection,” said Cliff.

Today Hoa is now settled in southern California, where he works for an engineering firm and applies his engineering degree from The University of New Orleans. To top things off, Hoa was able to visit Clinton in July 2019 for several days. His visit to the

Clinton Visitor Center resulted in the picture shown of Cliff and Hoa -- two friends reunited again.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Marsha Barham serves as the director of Clinton’s Visitor Center. “This is a personal story as told to me by Cliff Rushing,” said Barham. “It is a great example of how social media can be used in a positive way and can essentially change people’s lives. Cliff is a volunteer at the Clinton Visitor Center. Lieutenant Colonel Cliff Rushing, United States Marine Corps, served in our military from 1954-1980 (CHS class of ‘54). We thank him for his service.”

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