

In a review of ***A Long, Hard Road to Freedom***, U.S. Veteran David Stanley wrote the following:

"This is a fascinating account of one Vietnamese's life before, during and after the Viet Nam War. Starting with his early childhood in the highland town of Kontum, Nguyen describes his education, his service in the South Vietnamese Army working as an interpreter for American advisors and then his service as an interpreter and office manager for the U.S. Agency for International Development office in Kontum, working in the Pacification program. As South Viet Nam tragically collapsed in 1975, Nguyen was faced with a searing dilemma - fly out with only some of his family and leave the rest in chaotic Saigon, or stay and face the consequences. He chose the latter and paid a terrible price - nine years in a communist "re-education camp" where he endured brutality, malnutrition, exposure and overwork, while his family endured privation of their own. After his release he repeatedly sought - unsuccessfully - to escape by boat and was re imprisoned. After another decade struggling to support his family in a repressive police state, Nguyen and some of his family were finally permitted to leave in 1994, almost 20 years after the collapse of South Viet Nam. His married children and grandchildren, however, were forced to remain behind. Arriving in the U.S. as a penniless refugee, Nguyen tells the inspiring story of his family's building a new life in Arkansas through faith, hard work and education, his successful quest for U.S. citizenship and his love for his adopted country and his hard-won freedom. This book is inspiring and tremendously moving. And it is especially topical as the U.S. contemplates withdrawal from Iraq, for it shows that such decisions have consequences for others which may last a lifetime, and that if done badly, those consequences may be tragic."