

Venancio Quinto

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59:37

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SPEAKERS

Venancio Quinto, Nasriya Witt


- N** Nasriya Witt 00:05
Today is the 5th September, 2022. My name is Nasriya Witt, and I'm working as an oral historian for the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life. I'm in Oldenburg, Germany on a Zoom call with Mr. Quinto. Mr. Quinto, could you please introduce yourself to me and tell me where you're joining the call from?
- V** Venancio Quinto 00:29
Yes, I'm Mr. Venancio Quinto, father of Therese Quinto.
- N** Nasriya Witt 00:37
Awesome. Where were you born, and when did you move to the US?
- V** Venancio Quinto 00:44
I was born in the Philippines, and I moved here April 1980.
- N** Nasriya Witt 00:54
Could you describe your childhood in the Philippines for me?
- V** Venancio Quinto 00:58
Yes, I was born 1955, January, and my parents were poor. I grew up in poverty because my dad is only a shoemaker, and we're ten in the family, a huge family. My dad tried to make ends meet, because we are a huge family, so it's hard to support so many kids.


 Nasriya Witt 01:49
How many brothers and sisters did you have?


 Venancio Quinto 01:53
I have six brothers and three sisters, and I'm number four.


 Nasriya Witt 02:04
And you're number -

 Venancio Quinto 02:05
I am the fourth in the family, but we are ten in the family.


 Nasriya Witt 02:10
And are your siblings all in the US, or are some in the Philippines still?

 Venancio Quinto 02:15
They are all in the United States, but one passed away, the second eldest.

 Nasriya Witt 02:24
And when did you move to the US, and what made you move?

 Venancio Quinto 02:31
Well, I moved here in the US in April 1980. And I moved the United States because my dad petitioned me. He petitioned me November 1977.

 Nasriya Witt 02:52
And what did you do when you first moved to the US, and where did you move to?

 Venancio Quinto 02:57

I moved to Washington DC, and I worked in the Navy yard part time. My younger brother was a steward in the Visiting Flag Quarters. The Visiting Flag Quarters [are] the quarters of the top military brass, the naval top military admirals.

N Nasriya Witt 03:33

For the Navy, did you say?

V Venancio Quinto 03:35

My younger brother worked in the Navy Yard in the Visiting Flag Quarters. They recommended me to work there for a part time job. My eldest brother joined the Navy in 1966, so we had the privilege to come to the United States by petitioning my parents. So he joined the Navy when he was nineteen years old because of poverty, when it's living as for so many years with a huge family. There's no other way than to join the military at the time during the peak of the Vietnam War. During the year 1966. They're recruiting some potential recruits in the Philippines.

N Nasriya Witt 04:47

How old were you when you moved to DC?

V Venancio Quinto 04:50

I was twenty-five years old when I was a DC.

N Nasriya Witt 04:56

Could you describe some of your prominent memories in the Philippines before that, before moving?

V Venancio Quinto 05:02

When I grew up in the Philippines, there are some fun memories. As kids in the neighborhood, we played and we play a lot of activities like playing bingo after the fiesta. I love fiestas. At the time, at the month of May, we'd go to the barrios and swim in the river. During my high school days we had fun. I was elected as Student Body Republic Governor, and during that time I also was elected in the drama, and I made a speech in the commencement exercises about some of the heroes, leaders of the Philippines at that time. After school high school, I learned to play guitar and play chess, and I played tennis and basketball. So to combat my boredom, I played a lot sports, and it made me have to stay in physical fitness, so I [would] be able-bodied, ready to go the United States and pass their physical exam. I miss the memories in the Philippines.

V

Venancio Quinto 07:19

But after elementary, I earned some money by shining shoes and also selling ice popsicles. But because my dad was a shoe repairer, he asked customers if they want to make their shoes shiny, so it may look like brand new. We earned some money, and then we go to our big city, because there's a fiesta there at the time, Christmas week. The money that we earned, we watched first class movies like James Bond and all the second world war, like The Great Escape in Europe. That's how I experience memories during that time. And I watched The Sound of Music, that one of them I like. It happens to be there, in Austria. And James Bond, I love to watch those spy movies. We have money to watch those because I shine shoes. And we go also to the barrio when there's dancing there. But I love to play tennis. And my second youngest sister played in the Philippines, in the Nationals because she was the champion of tennis in the school, in college. So I was young when I moved to the US. Twenty-five, now I'm sixty-seven, so I spent more years in the US than in my home country.

N

Nasriya Witt 09:46

Yes, thank you for sharing. What was the immigration process like? So starting with the petition, how long did that take? Were there any complications?

V

Venancio Quinto 09:58

During that time, in the late 70s, it was not that long compared nowadays, because there is not much backlog on waiting lists on the potential immigrants, applicants. So my dad, before going home for vacation, he petitioned me November of 1977, and I was called in the embassy about April 1979. Maybe it's less than two years. But now, it's very hard for an immigrant parent to petition their kids. You must be a US citizen in order to quick process your application. But that was denied first, year of 1979, because my dad went home, and he was with me. The petitioner must be in the US in order to process the application, and I was denied. So during my denial, I make myself busy. I went to school, vocational school.

V

Venancio Quinto 11:35

So I waited for a year, and then the following year of 1980, April 9 - that's the fall of Bataan, that's historical, during the Second World War, so that's very significant for me. I can remember that day, April 9. Because we are advanced [twelve] hours in the Philippines, so April 9 I departed Manila. So I came here in April 9, too. It was almost Cherry Blossoms Day. This was fun. It was funny that in DC, it was like autumn. Autumn is very beautiful. The flowers are in bloom. But then the four seasons in the northeast. It's exciting, but when I arrived in Chicago, there's no leaves in the trees. I didn't realize it was autumn. During winter, the leaves fall. I don't have sleep from Manila to Chicago via Tokyo, Japan. And then I was able to sleep twenty hours from Chicago to Reagan Airport. And I was groggy, but then I arrived there. I went to bed early. And then I went, and in the morning, my brother brought me to Washington, DC downtown. And the [was the] first time I rode in the subway, just in to the FBI building. And I

had my first breakfast there, McDonald's English muffin. I can't forget that was my arrival in Washington, DC. That so I saw that bigger buildings, important - so that's my memories of the first time I arrived in the US.

N

Nasriya Witt 14:03

Very interesting. How long were you in DC, and where did you move after that?

V

Venancio Quinto 14:12

I lived in DC and then moved to Maryland, suburban Maryland. Nine years. I came 1980, and then I moved about '89, December. And then I moved to Redwood City, California. That's a second move, because my mom worked in a convalescent home in Redwood City.

N

Nasriya Witt 14:43

I'm sorry, could you repeat that last part please?

V

Venancio Quinto 14:46

I moved from Maryland, suburban Maryland, to Redwood City in California. My mom worked there. In the convalescent home, she's working. I rent an apartment, so we are close to each other.

N

Nasriya Witt 15:18

And did you meet your wife around this time?

V

Venancio Quinto 15:22

No, no, I haven't met my wife at the time. I was single when I moved to California

N

Nasriya Witt 15:34

And were you still with the US military, or had you switched careers?

V

Venancio Quinto 15:38

Oh by the way, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. 1980, when I arrived, after the navy yard, I joined basic training in Missouri in Fort Leonard Wood. I met a friend who had a cousin-in-law in New Jersey. So I joined the basic only, and I cannot acclimatize with the weather in Missouri, so I quit. I quit

basic, and from there I went home one year to join my brother in Clark Field, because he was in the Air Force. And from there, I came back 1982 of March. Coming back to my friend in DC. And from there, I work again part time in the navy yard and selling flowers in the federal buildings, in front [of] federal buildings. I wasn't able to have a job permanently, so that's how I started. And then when I moved to California, I worked in the insurance company and that gas station. That's the two jobs I worked in California.

N

Nasriya Witt 17:28

And what are some of your significant memories in California, and how long did you end up staying there?

V

Venancio Quinto 17:36

My significant memories was my cousin lived in Vallejo, near Napa Valley, and on Friday night after work, he asked me to go to the karaoke bar restaurant, and we'd drink a lot of beer and sing karaoke, because I love singing. We'd go to the near the Silicon Valley and Santa Clara and San Jose, and we'd go to buy some groceries there and go to the flea market. And we have a lot of fun because we traveled a lot. We go to Reno, Nevada to play casino. And the second job I work was American Hardware Insurance along the Redwood Shores, and I saw the Stanford University students rowing, practicing in a particular area. I was a filing clerk, my job there. I work eight months in the gas station, and then I work in the insurance company. And it didn't last long, 'cause our company closed.

V

Venancio Quinto 19:20

And then I go to my brother, by the way, in Stockton. He bought me a car, but I gotta to pay it monthly, and the condition was I will pick him up in the airport in San Francisco, thirty minutes drive, and drove him into Stockton, because he worked in Miami as a airplane mechanic. But it was sad that unfortunately, he passed away, my second eldest brother, who joined the army before. So anyway, that was in the past, and it's just memories. I love California, but then it's so expensive to live there. It's a long story that I was able to come to Texas, but I have no regrets in coming here.

N

Nasriya Witt 20:34

Is that what led you to Texas, how expensive California was?

V

Venancio Quinto 20:40

Yeah, it's expensive to live there, the facilities. I live in California for two years. So our company closed, and then I moved to Texas, Abilene, Texas, west Texas.

N

Nasriya Witt 21:08



And what were your first impressions of Texas?



Venancio Quinto 21:12

Well, in Texas it's warm, but during winter it's cold. And it's country, ranches, and cowboys. They are herding some of the animals, and I can see it's the wide plains of Texas. It's so huge, second to Alaska. [I'm] already driving five hours, still in Texas. And the people in Texas are friendly. They greet me, "Howdy," meaning they're hospitable and friendly.



Nasriya Witt 22:14

Yes. And what were some of your significant memories in your early years in Texas?



Venancio Quinto 22:21

First of all, I met some Filipinos, they are my province mates, and their kids were working in the hospital. I went up [to] the elder, he asked me to go fishing in the river. But I caught some gar fish, but he tried to claim that fish. And we butchered some hogs, pigs, and we divided it and sell to the nurses who work in the hospital during their pay day. And the rest I barbecued and cooked, and we drank a little beer. It's a lot of fun in Abilene, that's my first city that I lived. And that's where I met the mom of Therese. She worked in the hospital. Go ahead.



Nasriya Witt 23:38

I'm sorry to interrupt, but I was gonna ask, did you all meet in Abilene?



Venancio Quinto 23:42

Yeah, we met in Abilene. I was in Redwood City, she was in Abilene. 1991, 1992.



Nasriya Witt 23:56

And did you get married soon after?



Venancio Quinto 23:58

Yes. We got married in the Taylor County Courthouse.



Nasriya Witt 24:11

And when did y'all move from Abilene to San Antonio?

V Venancio Quinto 24:17

We moved here December of '92. I mean, last week of November of '92.

N Nasriya Witt 24:28

It's really impressive that you can remember the dates so well. Do you what prompted this decision to move to San Antonio?

V Venancio Quinto 24:37

Because it's a lot of opportunities to move here to San Antonio. So especially work in the hospital, because my wife is a nurse. So there are several hospitals in San Antonio. And besides, is a luxury and exciting and lots of opportunities.

N Nasriya Witt 25:08

And in the time that you've been in Texas, which is decades now, how has Texas changed?

V Venancio Quinto 25:16

Well, it's a huge change since I moved here in 1992. The infrastructures are widen, like for example the the roads and bridges, because at that time it's fewer residents of Bexar County, in the city of San Antonio. And since the influx of people coming to San Antonio, of course, they're gonna widen the infrastructures to accommodate some of them, the roads. Since Clinton proposed the NAFTA, I-35 from Mexico via San Antonio to Fort Worth, Dallas, they widened the roads, infrastructure, that's the most important thing, 'cause I-35 is the main artery for business to transport their goods from Mexico towards Texas. And then other business establishments are also built, because of the progress of San Antonio and suburbs. And, of course, San Antonio is number one tourist trap in Texas, because the Alamo's the battleground for liberty and freedom. It was in the Alamo. And also military bases and medical field. So the people are coming here because of that, job opportunities.

N Nasriya Witt 27:10

And when you move to San Antonio, were you still able to keep in touch with your family, and how did you do that?

V Venancio Quinto 27:16

Well, I moved - yeah, my families are mostly in California. And some of them are in Maryland and Virginia. So I was able to call them in order to be in touch. And then the advanced

technology, I was able to talk with him by Skype. I'm homesick, but I also go there for vacation in California.

N

Nasriya Witt 28:01

Because most of your family's in the US, did you ever feel homesick in some sense for the Philippines? Did you ever want to visit the Philippines?

V

Venancio Quinto 28:09

I visited there many times since my dad is still live in 1990. I went home 1992 during the election, presidential election. And then when my father passed away seven years later, I went home to attend the funeral and all that. After that, every nine to ten years, I went home ever since. So I visited my birthplace and with some of my old friends and relatives. So we have a lot of fun when I have a vacation.

N

Nasriya Witt 29:02

When you're in the US, do you feel connected to your Filipino identity? And do you see yourself transforming into someone that's more Texan? What does that look like for you?

V

Venancio Quinto 29:13

Well, it's complicated thing. First of all, some of my colleagues are not friendly, because they thought I'm an alien, having an opportunity to come here. Some try to be nice, some aren't. But I told myself it's a part of the game, being an immigrant. But they didn't know that my brother during the service or being a patriot to an allegiance to the US. Sometimes they're ignorant about those other Filipinos, so they are not nice, but it's okay. That's a part of life in the US. But then I met some new-comers. They come from anywhere, mostly from the Middle East. Came over here, and make friends with them, and have a little fun. We drink and eat. And I assimilate to the Filipino crowd that we have a community here, a church for worship. I feel at home. We have different languages, but we speak Tagalog, which is our national language, so we [are] able to understand each other. So I've been home now. I like Texas now, because it's affordable and lots of opportunities. So this is my new home now. I have no regrets in coming here to Texas.

N

Nasriya Witt 31:24

And you mentioned some of the issues you had with coworkers when you first moved, but besides that, have you had any other problems adjusting to life in a new country?

V

Venancio Quinto 31:40

Nationally, at first I had a hard time adjusting, because of the racial gap because the US is a

diversified country from people from all walks of life, race and religion. But sometimes I feel awkward myself at first, but then later on I adjusted myself to the lifestyle in the US and after that, everything okay.

N Nasriya Witt 32:29

Earlier you mentioned that you participate in some community events where you speak Tagalog and go to church. Aside from that, what do your community events look like? What do you all do? When do you meet up?

V Venancio Quinto 32:41

Yeah, some professional doctors, especially in the medical field, they build up Filipino church, Catholic church in the I-37, and we call it Santo Niño. And then it happens that the first parish priest was my province mate, so we speak our lingo, and it happens to be the priest, he served in my hometown, which I know that family. So the purse fighter Pacquiao went there, he visited Santo Niño to pray for Pacquiao to win against Barrera. That was 1993, and from that time on, we pray for him for his victory in the Alamo Dome. But then it happens to be he's a religious guy. He helped some Filipinos too, he financed them, which is good. Support from the Filipino community, we are united in times of calamities and adversity. We're united before a common goal for the peace and stability in the Philippines, our home country. Because I'm bullied too, my experience in the Philippines, here in the US. But then Pacquiao is my idol, because he's short, and he knocked out most of the big guys. It's a symbolism of Filipino, because that's my problem. I was bullied in because they are big, some Americans. That's the true story of my life. I told myself, "Someday they will respect that, respect me as a Filipino." Yeah, that's one of my problems when I'm the workplace. So Pacquiao is my idol, that in terms of our physical capability, that they want bully any Filipino because they are short, but they are tough. That's a part of life in the US. Every race, there's discrimination because of the religion, and gender equality, their physical deformities, or whatever.

N Nasriya Witt 35:13

And what kind of Filipino traditions and practices do you keep up with in the US?

V Venancio Quinto 35:38

The Filipino tradition is we go to church. We have this Thanksgiving week. We adopted that Thanksgiving, and we have a religious group too, the religious Fátima we call it. So we have bring some food, get together for fun. Most of it, especially on Christmas, or birthdays, especially during the boxing battle, Pacquiao, we get together, we bring some food, and we have a bet. How many rounds Pacquiao will knock them out, his opponents? So I enjoy living here in Texas, because of that. It's like I'm just home.

N Nasriya Witt 36:57

And has religion played a huge role in your identity, and if so, how?

V

Venancio Quinto 37:03

I'm born Catholic, so it was brought down the generation. And we go to church every Sunday, and before the pandemic, we have every first Saturday every month, we have Fátima, we pray for Fátima, for the conversion of sinners and communism. I think our prayers were heard too, because of the disbanding of the Socialist Republics, even Germany, which is through. President Marcos before predicted it was through, the disbanded Socialist Republics, and we had Gorbachev, their Soviet Politburo president. It's through, it's through because of Reagan, there's a united Germany, and the Balkans, and other Socialist Republics, which has played a significant role for peace and order. But we still continue to pray for now going [on] in the Ukraine. So sad, a tragedy.

N

Nasriya Witt 38:26

Yeah. After you moved to San Antonio, what major life events had an impact on you? For example, when was Therese born? How did that affect your life? When did you become a US citizen? What other major things happened to you?

V

Venancio Quinto 38:43

Well, first of all, I become a citizen when I'm still in the schools, 1986 in Baltimore, Maryland. One week after July 4, bicentennial, July 11, 1986. I have my citizenship. When I met my wife in Abilene, my wife had a lot of miscarriages, but she had a surgery. And the Indian doctors told her, "You can still have a child." She had her after surgery. It's true, that Indian doctor is a good doctor, and his prediction was true. That was two years later, we had Therese. But then one of the OBGYN doctors said that, "I have my fingers crossed that you [can] conceive. I will help you, but you help yourself." "But how?" she said. "Well, during ovulation you have to put in your bottom parts, that thing to keep it intact." Then they prayed for St. Thérèse of Lisieux, or she [inaudible] a miracle will happen. And then in 1993, I was out of work, and we heard then she was pregnant. 1994, 4th of July, she was born because of hard work and prayers is up so because of prayers we named her Therese of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. A miracle can result [from] that prayer.

V

Venancio Quinto 41:08

And then I have a part time job, and then I was a Mr. Mom. 1994 she was born, and then I stayed home for four years. And then I work in Whataburger for eight months. And then after that, I work in Methodist [Hospital Specialty and] Transplant. But it's a lot of challenges during when she was a baby, because my wife cannot breastfeed her. So we give her some little things like milk and Gerber. But one time it was difficult for me to take care, because she was sick, was vomiting and poop at the same time. I don't know what to do, and the clinic was closed on Sunday, that was Sunday. I was working at HEB at that time when it happened, 1995, I worked part time. In my gut feeling, I will go to HEB to ask the unit manager, director of HEB

here in Babcock. And I asked her the problem, and she said, "Give her a Pedialyte to stop it." Maybe that Gerber Baby food was the culprit. And so it stopped, and I was happy that my problem was over.

V

Venancio Quinto 43:06

Many times there is also a high fever, because of the milk. Maybe it was still her ear. But that's the problem I had too. So after that, I enrolled her in the YMCA when she was growing up to have outside the activities, to accustom to have antibodies collected in her body. By enrolling her to the YMCA by swimming, it made her not to be sickly all the time. So it helps, rather than staying home, overprotective, that's not good. So by doing activities outside, you will be strong and anti-disease. You won't get sick, she wouldn't get sick at that time easily.

N

Nasriya Witt 44:25

Interesting. Did you have any surprises raising Therese in the US? Do you see her as more American than Filipino, for example?

V

Venancio Quinto 44:37

She is more American now because of the environment, the US activities. It's more on the American lifestyle, because children are born in the US different from children born in the Philippines, in terms of activities and religious upbringing and family traditions. So it's different, but she learned a little bit of Filipino language, but with trying to teach her some, we translate some of the words, so she will not be sold to other Filipinos [laughs].

N

Nasriya Witt 45:50

Has raising a child in the US impacted your views on the US or how you view American culture?

V

Venancio Quinto 46:01

Because raising a child in the Philippines, different here, because the kids here are more liberal. For example, even when disciplining a child, you cannot whip them. In the Philippines, you can whip them there for disciplinary action. But here it's different. They are more on American tradition, the kids here, and despite the language. In the Philippines, kids there are more conservative than here, who are liberal. Yeah, that's all, that's all I can say.

N

Nasriya Witt 46:53

Interesting. So I'm going to pivot a little bit and ask questions specifically related to race and ethnic relations and politics before ending the interview. We touched on this a little bit already, but have you experienced unfair treatment? What happened? Would you like to share some stories related to that?



Venancio Quinto 47:17

What do you mean by unfair treatment? To me or Therese? Me in the workplace?



Nasriya Witt 47:24

Yes, to you.



Venancio Quinto 47:27

Yeah [inaudible] unfair treatment to me because of favoritism or nepotism, and I can feel it because the mentality of the people who are born here, my colleagues, thought that there was made an alien, and different dialects. I feel that I was [inaudible] sometimes, but I kept to myself, that is a part of the game in different race. Some of the different race got together against me, because I'm Asian. Yeah, I have no Black friends, much friends, or the colleagues that like me, but some of them like me. They're different characters also. Because maybe, my action, they sometimes - it's a part of human life, human nature that they will despise you. But mostly they bullied you sometimes. That's a part of the game anywhere you go. So then I'm retired now, so I have no problem [laughs].



Nasriya Witt 49:06

In your time here, has your views about living in the US changed at all? Has your political values changed?



Venancio Quinto 49:14

Well, before I don't vote. Now I'm voting, but in terms of the political views, I am a liberal and conservative as well. But then I can see the pros and cons of every candidate. I'm very wise on voting. The president who will [do] good for the country is most likely that I will vote, because I can see how they did their platform's, if the really are loyal, that they are doing their job. So if they have the integrity and proficiency in governing, so that's the one I will vote.



Nasriya Witt 50:24

What do you see as your identity? Do you see yourself as Filipino, as American, Filipino-American? How do you identify yourself?



Venancio Quinto 50:35

I am Filipino-American, but my heart is still in the Philippines. I am a Filipino by blood. But I am accustomed of the American tradition now, because this is my new home, and I pledge

allegiance to the flag of the US and the values. So being a naturalized American citizen, I will abide by the rules and regulations of the US.

N

Nasriya Witt 51:13

And then I'm going to ask you a couple last questions. But what goals do you have for yourself now and for your family?

V

Venancio Quinto 51:22

Well me, I keep myself busy to live healthy and the longevity of life by being busy and doing physical activities. And by doing so, I will stay healthy. Be careful on my food intake and exercise.

N

Nasriya Witt 51:58

What goals do you have or dreams do you have for your child and really even for your grandkids, if you were to have some in the future?

V

Venancio Quinto 52:07

Well my goal is to send them to school and finish school, and after that once they're stable, and they are on their own. And I want to see to it that they finish school, and Therese to graduate the nursing school and land a good job. That's for now. And later on, they will get - expect Therese to get married. That's all. I already accomplished my goal, because financially, I have no problem with it. Because of hard work and devotion, I accomplished my goal. I have no regrets of staying here in Texas.

N

Nasriya Witt 53:21

That's wonderful to hear. Before I move on to the last question, I wanted to ask, is there anything else you wanted to share that I haven't asked you about so far?

V

Venancio Quinto 53:33

I went to share to everybody that being an immigrant, majority of the immigrants, they really experienced hardships. And of course, it's a part of being an immigrant, but through hard dedication and devoted to succeed, you have the potential. You can excel, and you can achieve your goal. But that said, patience and hard work, will pay. That's all I can say, and that only in the US. It's the greatest nation on earth. You have the opportunity, despite your race, religion, gender, they have equality and many chances to succeed. And I'm happy that I came to the US, because if not, I have no future in the Philippines. My townmates bullied me, and I was mad. I will not succeed either in my hometown. I came to US at my change to come here. My dad told me, "Don't come to the US. You can't sleep. It's freezing." But he was wrong. Because I was

young at the time, I said to my dad, "While I am young, I will explore the world." I go to the US to find work, whatever it takes. If I stay there in the Philippines, I have no Therese and Nati. So it's a destiny that I came to the US. Here I am, I am here with Therese. So I think that's my destiny to become a US citizen and live here forever.

N Nasriya Witt 56:33
Thank you.

V Venancio Quinto 56:35
You're welcome.

N Nasriya Witt 56:37
So the last question, as you know, this interview is going to be archived for people to listen to, say, fifty years down the line, or a hundred years down the line. If you could shoot a message into the future, what would it be?

V Venancio Quinto 56:49
I think being an immigrant, for all upcoming immigrants, of course, you're gonna undergo hardships and discrimination. But it's a part of life being an immigrant. But we continue to work, dedicated to achieve our goal. Everybody have the ability and skills, the potential that only in the US they give you a chance to succeed despite the poverty. Poverty is not the hindrance to success, but if you have balance, intelligence, that your tool to succeed in America. Everybody does have opportunity, so don't be discouraged. We're all immigrants that are the next generation. Everybody has a chance and opportunity, for the America is the champion of democracy and freedom that we - as a new immigrants and citizens - that we experience. That's all I can say, that America is great.

N Nasriya Witt 58:48
All right, Mr. Quinto, if there isn't anything else that you'd like to add, I can go ahead and stop the recording now. Is that okay?

V Venancio Quinto 58:59
That's okay. That's okay. Thank you for this opportunity to be interviewed [inaudible] and through the interview with my old experiences in my life, since in my youth. And then I'm retired. That's my experience in life. I learned a lot being an American citizen. Thank you for the opportunity to be interviewed.