

List of Notable Vietnamese Americans

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This is a list of notable [Vietnamese Americans](#) who have made significant contributions to the [American culture](#) or [society](#) either [politically](#), [artistically](#), or [scientifically](#).

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Entertainment

- Da Nhat Yen - singer/songwriter international
Acclaimed Vietnamese American Female music artist
DA NHAT YEN
- Cardin - singer, composer and former member of group Asia 4^[1]
- Cao Boi - from [Survivor](#)
- Cat Tien (1982 -) singer^[2]
- Kristine Sa, songwriter and singer
- Kieu Chinh (1939 -) actress^[3]
- Chloe Dao (1971 -) fashion designer/"Project Runway" winner^[4]
- Thuy Thu Le (1973 -) retired actress^[5]
- Katie Luong (1975 -) actress and model^[6]
- Angela Melini - [playmate](#), model
- Betty Nguyen - CNN anchor^[7]
- Dustin Nguyen (1962 -) actor^[8]
- Dat Phan (1975 -) comedian, winner of first *Last Comic Standing*^[9]
- Maggie Q (1979 -) Hong Kong movie star/supermodel^[10]
- Jonathan Ke Quan (1971 -) actor and stuntman^[11]
- Tila Nguyen (1981 -) model^[12]
- Shayla (1975 -) singer^[13]

- [Thuy Trang](#) (1973 - 2001) actress^[14]
- [Trish Thuy Trang](#) - singer/composer^[15]
- [Cuong Vu](#) (1969 -) jazz trumpeter and vocalist^[16]

Literature

[Lan Cao](#) (1963 -) novelist, law professor^[17]
[Phung Le Ly Hayslip](#) (1949 -) memoirist and humanitarian^[18]
[Andrew Lam](#) (1964 -) journalist and short story writer, editor of the [Pacific News Service](#)^[19]
[Mong-Lan](#) - writer, poet, visual artist, educator^[20]
[Andrew X. Pham](#) (1967 -) author of *Catfish and Mandala*
[Aimee Phan](#) - author^[21]
[Monique Truong](#) (1968 -) author^[22]

Politics

Prince [Nguyen Phuc Buu Chanh](#) (1942 -) president of the [Vietnamese Constitutional Monarchist League](#), member of Vietnam's Nguyen Dynasty^[23]
[Viet D. Dinh](#) (1968 -) former [United States Assistant Attorney General](#) who drafted the [USA Patriot Act](#)^[24]
[John Quoc Duong](#) (1973 -) Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs)^[25]
[Van Tran](#) (1964 -) [California State Assemblyman](#)^[26]
[Hubert Vo](#) - Texas state representative^[27]

Sports

[Danny Graves](#) (1973 -) [MLB](#) baseball player^[28]
[Cung Le](#) (1973 -) kickboxing champion and coach^[29]
[Dat Nguyen](#) (1975 -) [NFL](#) football player^[30]
[Gemma Nguyen](#) martial artist
[Lee Nguyen](#) (1986-) professional soccer player
[Men Nguyen](#) (1954 -) professional poker player^[31]
[Scotty Nguyen](#) - professional poker player^[32]
[David Pham](#) (1967 -) professional poker player^[33]
[Mimi Tran](#) (1960 -) professional poker player^[34]

Science & Technology

Eugene H. Trinh (1950 -) [NASA](#) astronaut, the first Vietnamese-American to travel into outer space^[35]

Jane Luu - astronomer^[36]

Hau Thai-Tang - Ford Motor Company engineer^[37]

Trung Dung

Bui Tuong Phong

Nguyen Xuan Vinh

Other

Tran Quoc Binh (1978 - 2004) the first U.S. Army Vietnamese-American killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Baghdad, Iraq^[38]

Nguyen Cao Ky Duyen (1962 -) co-host of [Paris by Night](#)^[39]

Trinh Hoi

Frank Jao - pioneer of [Little Saigon](#) in Orange County, California^[40]

Kok Ksor (1945 -) president of the [Montagnard Foundation, Inc.](#)^[41]

References

Footnotes

1. ^ [1]
2. ^
[<http://asianfanatics.net/forum/index.php?showtopic=6845>]
3. ^ [2] "...was the only Vietnamese person invited to speak at the 10th anniversary ceremonies for the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington..."
4. ^ [3] "That is, after all, how the 34-year-old Vietnamese-American refugee became a successful..."
5. ^ **Le** - [4] "Vietnamese actress Thuy Thu Le"
6. ^ [5] "...she is considered one of the most recognized Vietnamese-American actors in Hollywood. She was born in Vietnam, but immigrated to Southern California at a young age..."
7. ^ [6] "Like most Vietnamese-Americans, I was going to pursue a career that's often regarded as bringing honor to the family..."
8. ^ [7] "I was only the first Vietnamese kid in the state..."
9. ^ [8] "Dat Phan is actually my real name. It's actually derived from China, even though I'm Vietnamese"

10. [^] [9] "She's a gorgeous, Hawaiian born, Vietnamese/American actress, a model gone action star in films in Japan and China..."
11. [^] [10] "Vietnamese newcomer Ke Huy Quan makes a shrill debut..."
12. [^] [11] "this Vietnamese vixen beauty really knows how to put on a show..."
13. [^] [12]
14. [^] [13] "Vietnamese-American actress, and was born in Saigon, South Vietnam."
15. [^] [14]
16. [^] [15] "CUONG VU is a Vietnamese born jazz trumpeter"
17. [^] [16] "It is the first novel by a Vietnamese-American about the war experience and its aftermath..."
18. [^] [17] "She is Vietnamese and a survivor of the Viet Nam war."
19. [^] [18]
20. [^] [19]
21. [^] [20] "Aimee Phan offers her observations as a Vietnamese American..."
22. [^] [21]
23. [^] [22]
24. [^] [23] "Like many Vietnamese immigrants, Dinh's emotional experience in his homeland steered him toward the Republican Party..."
25. [^] [24] "Another notable Vietnamese American dedicated to public service is John Quoc Duong, who serves under President George W. Bush, as executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."
26. [^] [25] "Orange County voters made Van Tran the highest-ranking Vietnamese American public official in the country this week when they elected him to the state Assembly."
27. [^] [26] "Hubert Vo: First Vietnamese American State Legislator in Texas"
28. [^] [27] "Graves, the only Vietnamese-born player in the major leagues, left Saigon when he was only 14 months old."
29. [^] [28] "Growing up as a skinny Vietnamese refugee, Cung Le was an easy target for bullies..."
30. [^] [29] "Nguyen and 10 other Vietnamese boys were segregated to one team..."
31. [^] [30] "Men Nguyen was born in Vietnam. At age 13 he quit school and began working as a bus driver. In 1978,

when he was 24, he and other 87 Vietnamese people escaped from their native country by boat."

32. ^ [31]

33. ^ [32] "Like other Vietnamese players..."

34. ^ [33] "Such is already the case with Mimi Tran, a Vietnamese émigré..."

35. ^ **Trinh** - [34]

36. ^ [35] "Vietnamese-American astronomer"

37. ^ [36]

38. ^ [37]

39. ^ [38]

40. ^ [39] "Vietnamese American entrepreneurs—like Mr. Frank Jao"

41. ^ [40] "...led by **Jarai**-American Kok Ksor..."