

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



Over the past three decades, Catholic Charities agencies nationwide resettled hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees. In communities large and small, local Catholic Charities from Atlanta to Scranton to Boise to Los Angeles have helped their new neighbors adjust to their new lives in the United States and achieve economic self sufficiency.

Catholic Charities resettle nearly 25 percent of the nation's refugees. Catholic Charities' resettlement programs first aided the newly arrived Vietnamese with basic needs such as housing, food, and clothing. They then provided the refugees with a myriad of services such as translation and interpretation; cultural orientation; accessing health care; other supportive social services; and legal aid. Catholic Charities agencies also found long-term foster care homes to dozens of adolescents who became to America all alone after being separated from their parents. Today, Catholic Charities agencies continue to serve the Vietnamese community in a variety of ways.

Refugee resettlement is just one of the many vital services, ranging from day care and counseling to food and housing to adoption and respite care that local Catholic Charities agencies are providing in their communities day in and day out.

Catholic Charities USA – the network's national member service center – was founded in 1910. The Catholic Charities network — more than 1,400 local agencies and institutions nationwide — provides help and creates hope for more than seven million people a year, regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds thanks to the dedication of more than 54,000 staff and 175,000 volunteers. The network is ranked the 4th largest among the nation's nonprofits in the country by *The Non-Profit Times*. For more information on the Catholic Charities network, visit www.catholiccharitiesinfo.org.

HONORARY VIETNAMESE AMERICAN

Secretary Norman Y. Mineta



Norman Y. Mineta became the 14th U.S. Secretary of Transportation on January 25, 2001. As Secretary of Transportation, Mineta oversees an agency with 100,000 employees and a \$58.7 billion budget. Created in 1967, the U.S. Department of Transportation brought under one umbrella air, maritime and surface transportation missions.

Prior to joining President Bush's administration as Secretary of Transportation, Mineta served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President Clinton, becoming the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the cabinet. Prior to joining the Commerce Department, he was a vice president at Lockheed Martin Corporation.

From 1975 to 1995 he served as a member of U.S. House of Representatives, representing the heart of California's Silicon Valley. As a member of Congress, Mineta was known for his dedication to the people of his district, for consensus building among his colleagues and for forging public-private partnerships. He co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American (APA) Caucus and served as its first chair.

Mineta and his family were among the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry forced from their homes and into internment camps during World War II. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, Mineta joined the Army in 1953 and served as an intelligence officer in Japan and Korea. He joined his father in the Mineta Insurance Agency before entering politics in San Jose, serving as a member of its City Council from 1967 to 1971 and mayor from 1971 to 1974, becoming the first Asian Pacific American mayor of a major U.S. city.

While in Congress, Mineta was the driving force behind passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese Americans during the War. In 1995, George Washington University awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Medal to Mineta for his contributions to the field of civil rights. His work with civil rights paved the way for Vietnamese Americans to enjoy the freedom they have today.