

Nancy Xiong

she / her

12/25/1981

Nancy was named after former First Lady, Nancy Reagan, as a symbol of democracy after her parents resettled in the United States as Hmong refugees from Laos. Growing up, she drove her mother through crazy adventures and was known as "siab coob" or many hearts/ having many interests. She's a dreamer at heart with goals after another. By day, Nancy is an economic and community development leader supporting start-ups and small businesses with a local non-profit. By night, she's a creative artist, writer and reiki energy healer.

Submission 1: Heart Mountain Pilgrimage 2nd Place Winner- *Take Off Your Shirt, Take Off Your Hat* - Written on November 4, 2019

I write to heal. I write to dump all of my feelings on paper. Here's a letter to my dad. Over the weekend as I spoke to him, each time he spoke about the war, he teared up. He spoke about the Kurds and how the US is pulling out. He said the US is doing the same thing to the Kurds as they did to the Hmong. I didn't bring the topic of war up. He did. Clearly he's still not over the Secret War in Laos and it shows through his tears. He is still in battle with the Secret War, with himself and his family.