

The Life of Ma Tao Khaen

1936

Ma Tao Khaen was born on February 15, 1936 in the village of Namtha Province in Northern Laos. Her parents Thanh Souk and Nang Prila were agricultural farmers.



Early November of 1955, the Vietnam War began impacting the surrounding countries of Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand.

1955

1964

Ma Tao Khaen went on to marry her life partner, Khamnoi Chulaparn. They had 6 children: Nang Jom, Keonoi, Phon, Boonnoi, Dee, and Saeng Kham.



May of 1980, the effects of war forced Ma Tao Khaen and her family to flee Laos. They crossed the Mekong River into Thailand and sought refuge at Banthong Refugee Camp near Chiangkong.

1980

1981

They were sponsored through the International Rescue Committee (IRC) under the care of Mr. Boonkham Boonthong. The whole family arrived in Seattle, Washington on January 11, 1981.



In 1998, Ma Tao Khaen and her family became official United States citizens. She pushed all of her children through college and embraced their new life in America while upholding their cultural identities.

1998

2022

Ma Tao Khaen lived a fulfilled life. She enjoyed gardening, making clothes, and spending time with her grandchildren until she passed away peacefully November 17, 2022.

