

working in the clinic, and driving the ambulance. He was then transferred to Nha Trang and put in the 934th medical detachment, a mobile unit called MEDCAP (Medical Civil Action Patrol). Mike's unit moved around by chopper, heavily protected by security forces, providing medical and dental services to combat troops in the field and to the Vietnamese civilians. One of their goals was to improve the quality of life for the civilians. It was a positive, nation-building experience, and people really appreciated his unit being there.

After Mike was released from the military, he began working as a dental technician as he had planned. However, he realized that it was not the right career for him, so he decided to go back to school. Meanwhile, he began volunteering for the Palo Alto VA Hospital in 1970. He first worked in the detox center for veterans with drug addiction. It was hard, because the men there were so young. Mike tried to convince them that there was a better life, but unfortunately, people were not treating veterans very well at the time. The war shown on TV was very different than the war Mike experienced. The news only showed destruction, but in reality the military, including Mike's unit, helped the Vietnamese civilians lead more fulfilling lives.

Mike graduated in 1974 from De Anza and from San Jose State in 1976. He continues his education to this day at West Valley College. Once he had his degree, he went into real estate and started selling for Century 21. In 1978, he started his own company, the Frangadakis Real Estate Corporation. He was a property manager, appraiser, and real estate broker. He had about 30 people working at his office at one time.

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