



Bill Scroggins/The Sun News

United again

Mrs. Bich Lanier breaks down and weeps with joy at the sight of her brothers and sisters as they arrive at the Myrtle Beach Jetport Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Lanier had not seen her

brothers and sisters since 1972 when she and her husband, an American serviceman, left Vietnam three years before the fall of Saigon.

Vietnamese family reunited after 13-year separation

By TONY ENDS
Copy Editor

Stacks of correspondence, reams of red-tape and 13 years of waiting finally paid off for an American serviceman and his Vietnamese-born wife in a dramatic reunion Tuesday afternoon at the Myrtle Beach Jetport.

It was the first time Tech. Sgt. Andy Lanier and wife Bich had seen their Vietnamese relatives since they were separated in 1972, and on reuniting with her four brothers and sisters, Bich Lanier broke down and wept.

"I felt so thankful, so relieved to know that they were safe and that now they will have a future," Bich said.

"It was like a giant load being taken off our shoulders," said her husband Andy Lanier. "Just to know that they are free and can have a chance at the American

dream is an answer to prayer."

"I've seen the heartache that my wife has gone through from day to day these past 13 years - waiting, and waiting, and waiting until it seemed like there was no end to this," said Lanier, who is assigned to the 354th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

"It's just such a relief to see it all finally come together," Lanier said.

The Laniers' relatives arrived in New York Monday afternoon under sponsorship of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee program, which met the four Vietnamese brothers and sisters — Dung, Thanh, Chi and Trang Dang — on their first arrival in the U.S. at the airport in New York.

The Lutheran organization had an interpreter on hand to receive the Dang family and put them up in a hotel overnight before their final departure for a new

Please turn to Page 4-A