Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: JOHN DO
Interviewer: Bob Nguyen
Date: January 1, 2017
Location: Westminster, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Spring 2017
Length of interview: 01:45:50

ABSTRACT

An oral history with Mr. John Do, born in 1930 in Saigon, Vietnam. He was an officer in the South Vietnam military and served his country from 1950-1975. After the collapse of South Vietnam, he was imprisoned for 10 years in various reeducation camps and was released in 1985. He discussed his memories of South Vietnam before 1975 and his experiences in reeducation camp. He also discussed how his family left Vietnam through the Orderly Departure Program in 1992 due to his time in reeducation camp. After coming to the United States, he became a machinist in an oil refinery and retired at the age of 70. He has 5 children and lives in Westminster, California with his wife.

ABSTRACT (another sample)

Oral history of Mr. Nguyen Dinh Cuong (or Cuong Dinh Nguyen, western-style) who was born in Hanoi in 1942. His family migrated to Dalat after the Geneva Conference partitioned Vietnam into north and south. Most of his education was attained in Dalat. He became a teacher and met his wife, also a teacher, at a school where he taught. They had a son in 1975 and fled Vietnam by boat in 1977, arriving in a make-shift refugee camp in Taman Muara, Malaysia. They were resettled to Los Angeles County, California where he had a brother already there. He continued his schooling and became a civil engineer, added one more child (daughter) to the family, and settled in Cerritos, California. At the time of interview he is retired and remains active in the Buddhist community as well as alumni associations and hosts a show on Vietnamese radio.

ABSTRACTS SHOULD INCLUDE:
- Name with title (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.)
- Place of birth
- Date or Decade of birth
- Immigration route
- Education background
- Previous and current occupations
- Events in life:
  + Significant accomplishments
  + Organization involvement
- Family situation
  + Relationship status
  + # of children, grandchildren, etc.
- Current residency (city and state)

OPTIONAL TO INCLUDE:
- Religion
- Hobbies
KEYWORDS

(If you come up with new keywords, highlight it in **yellow** so that we can add it to this list.)

**Subjects:**
- 1972 Paris Peace Accords
- Acculturation
- Activism
- Activist
- Actor or actress
- Adoptee
- Adoption
- Agent Orange
- Air Force (VN)
- Amerasian
- Ancestor
- Anticommmunism
- Anticommunist
- Architect
- Art
- Arts and Entertainment
- Artist
- Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)
- Asian American Studies
- Assimilation
- Banker
- Biology
- Boat People
- Buddhist
- Bui doi
- Business
- Business owner
- Cancer
- Catholic
- Childcare provider
- Children
- China
- Chinatown
- Chinese and ethnic Chinese
- Citizenship
- Civil rights
- College or university
- Colonialism
- Communism
- Communist
- Community service
- Computer scientist
- Construction worker
- Crime
- Criminal
- Death
- Demonstration
- Dentist
- Detainee
- Detention camp
- Diaspora
- Director
- Discrimination
- Dissident
- Domestic violence
- Education
- Elderly
- Emigration
- Employment
- Engineer
- Escape
- English as a second language (ESL)
- Ethnicity
- Exile
- Expatriate
- Factory worker
- Family
- Family reunification
- Farming
- Festival
- Filmmaker
- Firefighter
- Fisherman
- France
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- French Military
- Gangs
- Gardener
- Garment worker
- Geneva Conference
- Greek fraternity
- Hair salon
Handyman
Health
Healthcare
High school
Higher education
Ho Chi Minh
Homemaker
Human rights
Human trafficking
Humanitarian Operation (HO)
Humanitarian organization
Hurricane Katrina
Identity
Immigrant
Information Technology (I.T.)
Insurance agent
Integration
Intergenerational gap
Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM)
Interracial relationship
International student
Journalist
Land refugee
Language barrier
Language schools
Lawyer
Legal issues
Literature
Maid or domestic helper
Manicurist or nail technician
Marketing
Marriage
Mechanic
Media
Medical professional
Mental health
Mixed race
Moon Festival
Musician
Mutual Assistance Association
My Lai Massacre
Nail salons
Napalm
Naturalization
Navy (VN)
Newspaper or magazine
Nongovernmental Organization (NGO)
Normalization
Nurse
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Operation Babylift
Orderly Departure Program (ODP)
Orphan
Paris by Night
Pharmacist
Physician
Plastic surgery
Police
Police officer
Politics
Poverty
Prisoner
Producer
Professor
Protests
Public health
Race relations
Racism
Radio
Rape
Real estate agent or broker
Reeducation
Reeducation camp
Refugee camp
Refugee camp (Hong Kong)
Refugee camp (Indonesia)
Refugee camp (Malaysia)
Refugee camp (Philippines)
Refugee camp (Thailand)
Religion
Remittances
Research
Resettlement
Restaurants
Sales person
Scouts or scouting
Sex trafficking
Singer
Social worker
Soldier
Spirit
Sports
Sponsors or sponsorship
Stereotypes
Student
Tan Son Nhut Airport
Teacher
Technician
Television
Tet Festival
Tet Offensive-1968
Thai Pirates
Tradition or custom
Traditional medicine
Tourism
Unemployment
United Nations
United States Catholic Charities (U.S.C.C.)
Union
Union organizer
USAID
Veteran
Viet Cong
Viet Minh
Viet Kieu
Vietnam War
Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)
Waiter or waitress
War bride
Welfare
Writer
Youth

**Colleges/Universities:**
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine (UCI)
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Place names:**
Anaheim, California
Bangkok, Thailand
Cambodia
Camp Pendleton, California
Clark Air Base, Philippines
Eglin Air Base, Florida
Fountain Valley, California
Fort Chaffee, Arkansas
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania
Garden Grove, California
Gardena, California
Germany
Guam
Huntington Beach, California
Irvine, California
Laos
Little Saigon (Orange County, California)
Little Saigon (San Jose, California)
Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles County, California
Louisiana
Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California
Monterey Park, California
Orange, California
Orange County, California
Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp, Thailand
Pulau Bidong Refugee Camp, Malaysia
Riverside County, California
San Bernardino County, California
San Diego County, California
San Jose, California
San Francisco, California
Santa Ana, California
Songkhla Refugee Camp, Thailand
Taiwan
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA
TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA
WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA
WICHITA, KANSAS
VIRGINIA (UNITED STATES)

Locations in Vietnam:
Vietnam, Central
Vietnam, Northern
Vietnam, Southern
Bà Rịa (Vietnam)
Bắc Liêu (Vietnam)
Bắc Ninh (Vietnam)
Bản Mê Thuộc (Vietnam)
Biên Hòa (Vietnam)
Bình Dương (Vietnam)
Bình Thủy (Vietnam)
Cà Mau (Vietnam)
Cần Thơ (Vietnam)
Cao Bằng (Vietnam)
Cho Lôn (Vietnam)
Đà Lạt (Vietnam)
Đà Nẵng (Vietnam)
Đồng Tháp (Vietnam)
Hà Đông (Vietnam)
Hà Nội (Vietnam)
Hà Tiên (Vietnam)
Hà Tĩnh (Vietnam)
Hải Dương (Vietnam)
Hải Phòng (Vietnam)
Hải Phòng (Vietnam)
Hồ Chí Minh (Vietnam)
Hội An (Vietnam)
Huế (Vietnam)
Kum Tum (Vietnam)
Lang Sơn (Vietnam)
Long An (Vietnam)
Long Xuyên (Vietnam)
Mekong Delta (Vietnam)
Mỹ Lai (Vietnam)
Mỹ Tho (Vietnam)
Nghệ An (Vietnam)
Nha Trang (Vietnam)
Phan Rang (Vietnam)
Phan Thiết (Vietnam)