Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: JOSEPH BA PHAM

Interviewer: An Nhien Doan

Date: August 28, 2012

Location: Garden Grove, California

Sub-Collection: The Grove Senior Apartments

Length of interview: 00:57:13

00:00:17 Joseph Ba Pham told his date of birth and birth location.

00:00:30 He talked about his family and childhood life in Ninh Binh, his birth place.

00:01:08 He talked about what he learned in school and his family’s moving to Saigon to continue his education.

00:02:30 He talked about his goal while living in the South in the future and his view on the value of family heritage.

00:03:30 He talked is life during the Vietnam War and his view on the war. He did discuss a lot about spiritual value in his religion.

00:05:40 He talked about his career. He was a political scientist.

00:07:15 He discussed about his life after the war. He talked about going to prison and being sponsored by the US government.

00:07:42 He talked about his life in the prison camp. He talked about how cruel the Communist governments were in their persecution.

00:10:40 He started to talk about his analysis on the communist government. He said that people should have put more thoughts about the government.

00:21:40 He lamented about the communist using the excuse of fighting the Americans to invade the South and dragged the country down. He said that the year 1975 was one of the saddest moments of his life, having to see that the country was lost.

00:36:30 he talked about his career in a radio talk show after he had come to the US. He talked about his topics in the radio talk show.

00:40:39 He talked about his feeling about holding in all of the things he could not say in Vietnam but allow to say in the US.
00:41:55 He commented about the education system in Vietnam, about how outdated it was.

00:43:29 He talked about his first experience in the US and his hardship adapting. He said that he will fully encourage the next generation to know more about life.

00:49:49 He commented that although he loved the US but the country still has its drawbacks.

00:53:12 He said that the most important thing for the next generation is gaining as much knowledge and experience as one can, and the older generation must be a good role model.