Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: DZUNG T. BACH
Interviewer: Jennifer Hong
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Narrator Life Map

1951  Born in Hai Phong, North Vietnam

1954  Mr. Bach moved to South Vietnam when he was 3 years old.

   Lived in Saigon during war.

1972  Mr. Bach was in his 3rd year of University when the U.S. left Vietnam. He enlisted in army in 1972 (South, Vietnam)

1975  Mr. Bach was arrested as a POW in March 1975, a month before the Fall of Saigon Mr. He was by the mountains of the border of Laos and Vietnam.

   - Mr. Bach went to jail for two years, Following his 10th attempt to leave the country by boat.
   - In total Mr. Bach spent about 7 years in a reeducation camp.
   - 1979: When China helped Cambodia attack Vietnam. Officials made Mr. Bach and other prisoners of war go out to get barbed wire. The wire was deep in the ground alongside hidden mines. Two of Mr. Bach’s friends stepped on a mine. He recovered their remains.

1994  In September Mr. Bach came to the U.S.

   - First settled in City of Orange, in a small apartment by his wife’s parents and sister.
   - Two years before the interview, so in 2010 Mr. Bach bought a house in City of Orange. He moved out of the home he had been living in ever since he arrived in the U.S.
   - He worked part time at a sweatshop—then he worked full time.
   - Then he was at Head Start, as a teacher assistant. Then he became a pre-school teacher.
   - Now he is a high school teacher at La Quinta High School. He got this job after finishing school at California State, Fullerton.
   - He teaches Vietnamese as a world language and he holds the department chair.

2006  He went back to Vietnam to visit.
Occasional visits to Paris, where some family members live.