

The University of Southern Mississippi
Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster–Gulf Coast Fisheries
Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

Dac Truong

Interviewer: Linda VanZandt
Interpreter: Angel Truong Phan

Volume 1043
2011

This project was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration through Mississippi State University-Northern Gulf Institute, Grant Number NA06OAR4320264. Louis M. Kyriakoudes, Principal Investigator.

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An Oral History with Dac Truong, Volume 1043

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Biography

Mr. Dac Truong was born on May 8, 1954, in Rach Gia, South Vietnam. His father was a fisherman, head captain, and carpenter who built his own boat. Mr. Truong was his co-captain. In 1982 Mr. Truong escaped Vietnam with his family, navigating to Malaysia as captain on a friend's boat. They were later transferred to a camp in the Philippines where he learned some English. In 1984 Mr. Truong and his family finally made it to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where they lived for three years. In 1987 he moved his family to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and began fishing the Gulf waters. He is married to Lam Le, and together they have six children and nine grandchildren.

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AN ORAL HISTORY

with

DAC TRUONG

This is an interview for The University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. The interview is with Dac Truong and is taking place on August 29, 2011. The interviewer is Linda VanZandt. English/Vietnamese interpretation is provided by Angel Truong Phan, daughter of Mr. Truong. English transcription of Vietnamese language italicized in parentheses.

VanZandt: Today is August 29, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Truong, for being here today. And Angel for helping to interpret, and anything that you think of along the way, if you'll just feel free. Today is the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Truong.

Truong: Um-hm.

VanZandt: And I just wondered if we could start with your reflections on Hurricane Katrina, six years later, how far you've come personally and your community here, the Vietnamese community. And just talk a little bit about the changes that have happened in the six years since Katrina.

Truong: Nói lại đi.
(*Could you repeat please?*)

Phan: Nó nói là tháng 8 ngày 29, 2011 là sáu năm khi bão Katrina đã vô bến Biloxi ở Mississippi, vậy sáu năm qua ba nghĩ lại thấy cơn bão nó làm sao?
(*She said today is August 29, 2011, six years since Hurricane Katrina came to Biloxi, Mississippi, so reflecting back to the last six years, what do you think about Hurricane Katrina?*)

Truong: Thì 6 năm rồi, thì cũng sống ở đây bình thường lại thôi.
(*It has been six years already; things are back to normal now.*)

Phan: Dạ. Mà 6 năm qua là cái bão Katrina vô là nó ảnh hưởng cái business của ba. Con biết ngày xưa là ba có cái business kêu bằng Discount Dollar. Bây giờ cái building đó có còn tại đó không?
(*Great! But the past six years, Hurricane Katrina did impact your business. I know you used to have a business called Discount Dollar. Is that building still here?*)

Truong: Còn. Bây giờ sửa lại rồi.

(Yes, and it has been fixed!)

Phan: So I told him that I know that he has a storefront called Discount Dollar and how is his building coming back from Katrina because Katrina did take it away. His store is located a quarter a miles away from the beach. And during that time, he can tell us a little bit more about what had happened to his store.

VanZandt: Absolutely, if you would, Mr. Truong. We're sitting here—I would like to say for the tape—in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, very close to the beach, maybe a quarter mile, as well, from the beach. So if you could tell us about your Dollar Store and what happened to it in the storm.

Phan: Bà nói là ngày xưa ba có tiệm Dollar Store thì cái storm Katrina vô là đã xảy ra cho cái tiệm của ba?

(She said you used to have a Dollar Store. So when Hurricane Katrina came, what happened to it?)

Truong: Thì bão nó đánh bể hư nhà, hư tiệm đồ hết vậy đó. Đồ đạc là hư hết.
(The storm destroyed the houses, the buildings and stuff. Everything was destroyed.)

Phan: So what he said, what happened to the store is when the storm had came in, it *totally* washed everything away.

VanZandt: Everything *inside* was washed away?

Truong: Uh-huh, washed.

VanZandt: Nothing left. Where were *you* when the storm happened?

Truong: Nói với bà là hồi storm, là ba ở dưới tàu ba giữ tàu.
(Tell her that when the storm came, I was on the boat. I had to look after the boat.)

(Phone rings)

VanZandt: So, you were saying that your store, everything was washed away. And where were you, Mr. Truong, during the storm?

Truong: Ở trên tàu.
(On the boat.)

Phan: Hồi lúc mà bão là ba đang ở đâu?
(Where were you when the storm hit?)

Truong: Ở trên tàu. Dìu tàu đi đến chỗ trốn bão đó.
(*I was on the boat. I had to take the boat to a safe area away from the storm.*)

Phan: He said during the storm, he owns a boat and there was a place for the boats to go to, and I can ask him where.

VanZandt: Sure. Is it the Hurricane Hole that I've heard about in Biloxi?

Truong: In Back Bay.

VanZandt: Back Bay, where a lot of the fishermen go?

Truong: Yeah.

VanZandt: So that's where you were?

Truong: Yeah.

VanZandt: On your boat?

Truong: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: Who else was with you?

Truong: Voi hai người deckhand.
(*With two deckhands!*)

Phan: Two deckhands.

VanZandt: OK. And can you talk about what happened riding out the storm on your boat, Mr. Truong? Did you tie up your boat?

Truong: Um-hm.

Phan: Ba có nhớ cái lúc mà trên đường đi trốn bão, ba có nhớ cái gì đã xảy ra không?
(*Do you remember what happened when you were running away from the storm?*)

Truong: Lúc đó phải là 10 chiếc tàu buộc lại cập lại. Khi mà gió lớn lên thì phải chạy máy ủi vô bồn, đặng cho giữ tàu lại.
(*At the time, 10 boats were tied together. When the wind was blowing too strongly, we had to run the engine to keep the boats situated.*)

Phan: He said he remembered during that time, he drove his boat along with 9 other fishermen. And they drove into where you said they kept their boats. But he said during the storm the water kept on rising and so everyone had to tie their boats together. And they formed a line, a bond. He said they were stronger when they tied their boats together versus going at it alone. What they had to do was gear their boats up and then ram into the cliff so that they can anchor them because the water was rising so much and everyone was just tossing and turning everywhere. So they had to tie everything together and ram their boat into the cliff where they could be a little stable.

VanZandt: How long did this last, Mr. Truong? Do you remember? I'm sure it seemed like a long time. The water was rising and you were weathering the storm. How long did that take?

Truong: Khoảng 6 tiếng đồng hồ.
(*About 6 hours*)

Phan: He said this lasted for 6 hours.

VanZandt: Six hours.

Truong: Um-hm.

VanZandt: And what were you thinking at the time?

Truong: Lúc đó cũng sợ dữ lắm. Lúc đó gió lớn.
(*I was very anxious! The wind was blowing strongly!*)

Phan: He said at that time he was very scared. It was so windy.

VanZandt: And you didn't know what was going to happen.

Truong: Nước nó dâng lên cao thì cũng sợ nhưng mà những chiếc tàu buộc rồi rã thì bị chìm.
(*When the water rise I was anxious too, but the boats that were not tied together, they sank.*)

Phan: OK, he said the ones that were not in a boat and tied together, those boats actually *sank*. So, it was his idea for the group of boats to come together and tie everybody together.

Truong: Rồi tàu nó đập vào nhau thì cũng hư nhiều lắm.
(*And the boats slammed into each other. A lot of them were damaged.*)

Phan: Although they were tied together, the boats were rocking back and forth and they damaged each other's boat but they did not sink, versus the ones that they saw sink that were just by themselves. And he said that it was tossing and turning. He was very scared during that moment of uncertainty.

VanZandt: Mr Truong, had you ever been through a storm like that before? How did you know what to do?

Phan: Ba có trải qua cơn bão giống như vậy chưa?
(*Have you ever experienced a storm like that before?*)

Truong: Có rồi. Cứ mỗi lần bão là phải ở dưới tàu, giữ tàu vậy đó.
(*Yes. Every time when a storm hit, I had to stay on the boat and look after it.*)

Phan: He said he has had a lot of experience. He's been a fisherman since Vietnam and so every time that there is a hurricane, he strategizes, he knows what to do.

VanZandt: And that brings up a good time to talk about your fishing life in Vietnam. Can you say for the record and let everyone know where and when you were born?

Phan: Bà muốn biết là ngày năm sinh tháng đẻ của ba.
(*She wants to know your date of birth.*)

Truong: Ngày 8 tháng 5 năm 54. Sinh tại South Vietnam.

Phan: May 8, 1954, in South Vietnam.

VanZandt: Nineteen fifty-four, in South Vietnam. Where in South Vietnam?

Truong: Rạch Giá City.

Phan: In Rạch Giá City.

VanZandt: Rạch Giá City. Is that along the coast? Fishing town?

Truong: Yeah, um-hm.

VanZandt: OK. Is it very close to Saigon? About what distance from Saigon?

Truong: Cách Sài Gòn 150 miles.
(*150 miles away from Saigon.*)

Phan: Maybe 150 miles away from Saigon.

VanZandt: OK. What was life like in the fishing village there, can you tell me about learning how to fish? Was your father a fisherman?

Phan: Hồi xưa là ông nội phải là fisherman không?
(*Was your grandfather a fisherman?*)

Truong: Ờ. Hồi đó ông nội có tàu rồi ba chạy công đi biển.
(*Yeah, well, my grandfather had a boat and I was working on that boat.*)

Phan: His father was a fisherman and they owned a boat and his father was the head captain and he was the co-captain.

VanZandt: Like you. (chuckles)

Phan: Even during that time his father taught him how to lead. (laughter)

VanZandt: So that came in handy years later, right?

Phan: Yeah.

Truong: Later.

VanZandt: So your father was a captain, owned his own boat. Do you know if he *built* his own boat?

Phan: Hồi xưa là ông nội mua chiếc tàu đó hay đóng?
(*Did your grandfather buy that boat from someone or he built it himself?*)

Truong: Build. Ông nội build. Ừ.
(*Build. My grandfather built the boat!*)

Phan: Ông nội là Carpenter hả?
(*Was your grandfather a carpenter?*)

Truong: Ừ.
(*Yes.*)

Phan: Along with being a fisherman, his father was also a carpenter.

VanZandt: Wow. So he built his own boat.

Phan: He built his own boat.

VanZandt: So a wooden boat. Do you remember that boat that your father had? I wonder how big it was. Can you describe it?

Truong: Tàu cũng nhỏ. Dài khoảng chừng 35 feet thôi.
(*The boat was fairly small. It was about 35 feet long.*)

Phan: He said it was a small boat, it was around 35 feet.

Truong: Thirty-five foot long. Not big. (chuckles)

VanZandt: OK. Not too big. What kind of things did you catch in Vietnam?

Truong: Ở Việt Nam thì bắt cá, tôm.
(*In Vietnam, we catch fishes, and shrimps.*)

Phan: In Vietnam, you're able to catch fish, shrimp, crabs, clams, just anything.

VanZandt: OK, different from here in the United States.

Truong: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: How is fishing different in Vietnam than fishing here on the Gulf Coast?

Truong: Ở bên Mỹ bắt tôm không à, không có bắt cá còn ở Việt Nam thì bắt hết.
(*In America, we only do shrimping. In Vietnam, we can catch anything.*)

Phan: In Vietnam, you're able to catch just about anything. And in America, he mainly goes shrimping, fishing for shrimp.

VanZandt: So you learned to fish from your father. Can you tell me about leaving Vietnam? Did you leave on that same boat when you left Vietnam?

Truong: No.

VanZandt: You didn't? Different boat?

Truong: My friend's boat. I am captain.

VanZandt: You were the captain?

Truong: Yeah.

VanZandt: So you led the way when you had to leave Vietnam.

Truong: Uh-huh. I drive the boat, go Malaysia.

Phan: (chuckles)

VanZandt: All the way to Malaysia?

Truong: Um-hm.

VanZandt: How many days did that take?

Truong: Three day and three night.

VanZandt: And how was that journey? What was it like?

Truong: Dangerous. (chuckles)

VanZandt: Dangerous?

Truong: Yeah.

VanZandt: Why was it dangerous?

Truong: Nói là chỉ nhìn thấy trời, biển, với nước không hà. Không có thấy bờ bên gì hết á.

(We could only see the sky, the sea, and water. Could not see any land!)

Phan: For a long time, he was not able to see any land at all. It was just sky and water. He didn't know how, when they were going to get to shore. But at that time—Ba cái chiếc tàu đó có cần fuel hay là gió?

(Does the boat run on fuel or wind?)

Truong: Cái gì?

(What?)

Phan: Cái chiếc tàu đó có cần đổ dầu không?

(Does that boat need fuel?)

Truong: Dầu thôi. Chuẩn bị dầu thôi.

(Fuel. Only prepare the fuel.)

Phan: I was curious like if back then they had fuel boat or was it sailboats, and he said it was fuel, definitely.

VanZandt: Fuel, um-hm. So you hoped you had enough fuel to get you to land.

Truong: Um-hm, yeah.

VanZandt: Did you?

Phan: Cái lúc đó mình có đồ dầu đủ không?
(*Did you prepare enough fuel at that time?*)

Truong: Thì chuẩn bị dầu trên tàu đủ để mình đi thôi.
(*Well, we only prepare enough fuel to make it through the trip.*)

Phan: Mà lúc đó ba có hết dầu không?
(*Did you run out of fuel at the time?*)

Truong: Không. Không có bị hết dầu.
(*No. I didn't run out of fuel.*)

Phan: He said that they had enough oil to reach Malaysia.

VanZandt: I know also, Mr. Truong, from talking to you before, that you went to the Philippines also, and then to America? Is that right?

Truong: Ở đó được một tháng. Phải đoàn Mỹ phỏng vấn. Phỏng vấn xong chuyển qua Philippines học Anh Văn.
(*I stayed in Malaysia for a month. I was interviewed by the American, then I was transferred to Philippines to learn English.*)

Phan: Yeah. OK, so when they got to Malaysia, they were in a refugee camp and they were interviewed and then transferred to a camp in the Philippines, and that's when they—

Truong: Um-hm, study English.

Phan: —Philippines and studied English. And after that, he was able to come to America.

VanZandt: OK. And for people who are wondering how you ended up here in Ocean Springs, how did you get here on the Gulf Coast?

Truong: Khi mà ba tới Mỹ thì ở bên Oceanside. When I come to United States, live in Oceanside three years.

VanZandt: First, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas?

Truong: Uh, Fort Smith [Arkansas].

VanZandt: Three years?

Truong: Yeah, three years. And then friend of mine, I contact friend of mine, tell me come by here, fishermen.

VanZandt: Ah, a friend who was fishing here?

Truong: Yeah, yeah.

VanZandt: He said, “Come on down here”?

Truong: Um-hm. I come down here 1987.

VanZandt: Nineteen eighty-seven. And you started shrimping then here?

Truong: Yeah.

VanZandt: Now, last year, Mr. Truong, you were just recovering from Katrina. It was five years after Katrina. And then the BP oil spill happened last year in 2010—

Truong: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: —April 20th. Can you talk about how you’ve been affected by the oil spill as a fisherman over the last year?

Truong: Bà nói gì?
(*What does she say?*)

Phan: Bà nói là sau khi cơn bão, ba có thể build lại sự nghiệp của ba. Mà cái dầu tràn đó nó ảnh hưởng cái ba đi đánh cá ra sao?
(*She said after Hurricane Katrina, you could rebuild your career. So how did the oil spill affect your fishing life?*)

Truong: Thì dầu tràn thì đâu có đi đánh cá được? (shy chuckle)
(*The oil spill made me not able to go fishing.*)

Phan: He said after the oil spill, of course, he was not able to go fishing.

VanZandt: How many times have you been out fishing over the last 16 months since the oil spill?

Phan: Ba có thể đi đánh cá bao nhiêu lần sau khi cái vụ dầu tràn?
(*How many times did you go fishing after the oil spill?*)

Truong: Tới tháng 11, tàu mới đi được một, hai chuyến thôi.
(*Up until November, the boat could only go fishing once or twice.*)

Phan: Up until November of, last year?

Truong: October chứ?
(*Up until October.*)

Phan: October of last year, he was only able to go one or two times.

VanZandt: OK. And what happened when you went out? If you can explain for people why you couldn't go out and what happened when you did?

Phan: Mà cái lúc mà ba đi ra, tại sao mà ba không có đi nữa? Tại vì không có dầu? Hay tại vì dầu mắc quá?
(*When you were about to go, why did you not continue? Because you had no oil? Or because oil price was too high?*)

Truong: Có dầu. Có chỗ thì người ta cấm.
(*We had gas. But they had restriction at some places.*)

Phan: There were a lot of restrictions on where they could and could not go. And then there's a lot of places where there was still oil there and the Coast Guard said that they could not go there to do their regular fishing.

VanZandt: So, you've been waiting. It sounds like you would wait to hear where you could go?

Truong: Um-hm.

VanZandt: What was the risk of going out? Did you see oil out there? Was it too much of a risk to spend money on fuel and supplies, to go out and not know? If you can just talk about the challenges and risks of going out.

Phan: Bả hỏi cái lúc mà mình đi đánh cá, thì mình đâu có thu vô đủ để đổ dầu đâu phải không?

(She asked when you go fishing, you did not have enough revenue to replenish the oil, right?)

Truong: Bây giờ thì đâu có đi. Không có tôm.
(Right now I don't go anymore. There are no shrimp.)

Phan: He said right now, there's not any shrimp, so even if he filled up on ice and fuel, there's no profit.

VanZandt: Why isn't there any shrimp? What do *you* think? Because what people hear from the media is everything seems OK now. The spill is gone, season is open. Why do you think you're not finding any shrimp? What's going on?

Truong: From the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, no shrimp. Only friend of mine have the big boat go to Texas and get lot of shrimp there. Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, no shrimp.

VanZandt: No shrimp. So only those who have the big boats that can go farther out into—

Truong: Texas.

VanZandt: Texas?

Truong: Texas. The big boat go to Texas get shrimp.

VanZandt: OK. So do you think there are no shrimp because of the oil spill? Do you think it's because of the oil spill or other reasons?

Truong: Bà nói gì?
(What does she say?)

Phan: Bà có nghĩ là không có tôm tại vì oil spill với những chất mà nó xịt vô biển? Hay tại cái gì khác?
(Do you think the reason why we have no shrimp now is because of oil spill and the chemical they put into the ocean or something else?)

Truong: Bà nghĩ thì dầu tràn nó làm ảnh hưởng tới con tôm.
(I think it is because of the oil spill.)

Phan: *He* believes that it was because of the oil spill and it caused the slow processing of the cycle, of the shrimp processing.

VanZandt: What do you think about the future after the oil spill?

Truong: Nói gì?
(*What does she say?*)

VanZandt: Do you think that it will get better after a couple of years, give it time for the shrimp to grow?

Phan: Ba có nghĩ là tôm sẽ trở lại như thường nữa không?
(*Do you think the shrimp will be back to normal?*)

(brief interruption with kitchen noise)

Phan: OK, I'm sorry. (smiles)

VanZandt: (chuckles) I was just asking him what he thinks the future will hold. Does he think it will get better? I've talked to some oystermen who say they think the oysters, after maybe a couple of years, they'll even be bigger. It's just the cycle. So now there needs to be some time that they can come back and grow, and then things will be better. Does he think that might occur for the shrimp? That it's just a short period of time and then things might be better, or does he think this is the end of shrimping?

Truong: Ba không nghĩ vậy đâu. Mọi năm mà không có vụ dầu tràn thì những tháng này thì tôm nhiều lắm. Bây giờ là không có tôm.
(*I don't think so. In the past when we didn't have the oil spill, there were a lot of shrimp at this time of the year. Right now we have none.*)

Phan: He said that it's going to be a very long time. He doesn't think that it's gonna come back like the oysters. He said that during this month right now, this is the peak of their season, normally. But because of the oil spill there is no shrimp right now. He said during this season, he's always out there and he makes a lot of money during this time, but right now there's nothing.

VanZandt: Mr Truong, I know you have a lot of other friends fishing. Do they feel like you do? No one's going out right now because they know there's nothing to catch?

Phan: Bây giờ có nhiều người đi ra đánh cá không hay là không có ai đi?
(*Are there anybody that go fishing right now? Or nobody goes?*)

Truong: Nhưng cái tàu nhỏ thì vì không có tôm nên không có ai đi. Còn những cái tàu mà freezer đi Texas thì bắt tôm được.

(The small boats could not go because there is no shrimp. The boats that have freezer that go Texas could find some shrimp.)

Phan: He said the smaller boats are not able to catch anything. But the freezer boats, they're able to go further into Texas water, then they're able to still make a living. But as far as the ones that are around here, they're not catching anything.

VanZandt: OK. So, what are you doing in the meantime, Mr. Truong, when you can't shrimp and you're used to being out there on the water? How do you fill your time? I understand you have a, if you can talk maybe about the Dollar Store that's been turned into kind of a community center. Are there other ways that he's finding to recover from the oil spill?

Phan: Bà nói là cái thời gian mà mình không thể đi ra đánh cá, lúc này ba đang làm cái gì để mà đang có đồng tiền?
(She asks, in the meantime when you cannot go fishing, what do you do to make money?)

Truong: Giờ đâu có làm cái gì ra tiền.
(Right now I don't make anything.)

Phan: Right now, he's not making an income.

Truong: Nói với bà là ở đây sống chỉ có nghề biển thôi.
(Tell her we only make a living by fishing.)

Phan: He said that he only hopes and he enjoys fishing a lot, for that to come back.

VanZandt: I'm so glad you said that, because I've never been on a shrimp boat—

Truong: Uh-huh.

VanZandt: —and it sounds wonderful to be out on the open ocean. What do you like about fishing? You've been doing it all your life. What do you feel when you're out there on the ocean?

Phan: Bà nói tại sao mà ba thích đi biển.
(She asks why do you like fishing and the ocean?)

Truong: Tại hồi nhỏ đến lớn làm nghề biển rồi.
(Because that what I have been doing since growing up.)

Phan: He said that's all he knew. That's what he grew up doing.

Truong: Với lại tiếng anh mình không có giỏi , nên chỉ làm biển thôi.
(*And because my English is not good enough, so I could only live by fishing.*)

Phan: Yeah. And said he just enjoys fishing and shrimping because, you know, with his limited English, you know, that he was able to make a good living then, but.

VanZandt: Some people are talking about learning how to farm raise shrimp and other fish. What does he think about that?

Phan: Có nhiều người bây giờ người ta nuôi cá, ba nghĩ gì về cái đó?
(*There are people that start raising fish. What do you think about that?*)

Truong: Cái đó những người người ta biết làm thì người ta làm. Còn như ba không biết.
(*That only if they know how to do it; I don't know how.*)

Phan: Yeah. I think what, he doesn't know that business, but if he were to know that business, I think that would be something he *would* consider.

VanZandt: I know some fishermen in New Orleans are talking about learning how to do that. I just wondered how he felt about it. Do we have any more time or do we need to—do we have a few more minutes?

Phan: Yeah, we have probably twenty minutes with—

VanZandt: OK. Well, is there anything, Angel—this is your father, and I know you've been impacted as well, your whole family. What would you like to—

Phan: Well, I think he's shown really great leadership in all of it, whether it be coming from Vietnam, and just making a new path for *all* of us. I just want to thank him for showing great leadership, you know, because it really empowers me to be able to move forward. It's been really hard for me to move to [Washington] D.C. and make a new path. But I look back at his examples, and everything he left behind, and all his struggles, but he was able to bounce back quickly. And, I can only thank him for just being able to lead our family and our community like he has.

VanZandt: Absolutely. Mr. Truong, I feel like you've been such a hero for so many people—when you left Vietnam, the people that you took aboard your boat and navigated safely to another life, as hard as that was. And through Hurricane Katrina, showing leadership, like you said Angel, is *extraordinary*.

Truong: Bả nói gì?

(What does she say?)

Phan: Bà nói là ba giống như là anh hùng của Việt Nam.
(She said you are like a hero of Vietnam.)

Truong: (Laughter)

Phan and VanZandt: (Laughter)

Phan: Yeah. Bà đã giúp nhiều người được qua Mỹ, với lại trải qua cơn Katrina với vụ dầu tràn. Bà nói, mấy cái lúc đó bà đứng lên nói chuyện vậy đó, khuyến khích nhiều người lắm.

(You helped many people to come to America, went through Hurricane Katrina and the oil spill. She said, when you stand up and talk about those experiences, you do inspire many people.)

Truong: Thank you.

VanZandt: Thank you. Is there anything that you'd like to say at all before we close? Anything about how things might have been done differently or better from BP in the recovery, or?

Phan: Bà nghĩ BP có thể làm cái gì cho cộng đồng mình trở lại như thường? Hay nó có thể làm cái gì khác để giúp đỡ người dân nhiều hơn?
(What do you think BP can do to bring our community back to what it was before? Or what can BP do to help more people?)

Truong: BP thì có người có trả còn có người nó không trả. Nó làm cũng đâu có đồng đều đâu.
(BP only compensates for some people. It doesn't do it fairly.)

Phan: He said that there's not a fair process of how it's done. There should be a fair process. He said that some people are getting it [compensation], and some people aren't. It's *very* selective. So he said there should be a better process of being able to compensate people.

VanZandt: Processing the claims.

Phan: Processing the claims, right.

VanZandt: Mr. Truong, thank you so much. And I just hope for the best for you. You have a fantastic family and I know they love you very much.

Truong: Thank you.

VanZandt: All right. Good luck.

(end of interview)