

Daniele Volfe



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49:50

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SPEAKERS

Daniele Volfe, Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz



Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 00:03

It is September 22. This is Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz interviewing Daniele Volfe in - what city are you in Dani?



Daniele Volfe 00:15

I'm in McKinney.



Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 00:17

McKinney, in McKinney, Texas. I'm in Oak Cliff, Texas, for the Gone to Texas oral history project. Dani, can you please introduce yourself and share a little bit about yourself?



Daniele Volfe 00:32

I am Daniele Volfe. I am married, and I have three kids. I can talk a little bit about that in a minute. I am an immigration attorney, and my husband is a pastor.



Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 00:49

Thank you, Dani. Where were your parents born, and when were they born?



Daniele Volfe 00:57

I was born in Brazil. My parents were born in Brazil, too. So my father was born in Minas Gerais, my mom was born in Pernambuco. But both of them later on went to a city called Maringá. That's where they met, and that's where I was born.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 01:20
What did they do for work?

D Daniele Volfe 01:25
My parents were attorneys, and they went to law school later in life. They were about thirty-five when they went to law school, so my dad did a whole bunch of stuff, and he did not have an easy life. My mom didn't either, but my mom had two college degrees. So she had English and literature, and the first degree that my dad had was a law degree, and this was later in life. And both of them went to law school together when I was about nine and my brother was seven.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 02:12
Wow, what do you think made them want to pursue law later in life like you said?

D Daniele Volfe 02:19
I think it was - it was great. My mom, I think she did it to help my dad really pursue this dream because it was not really her dream. It was his, it was actually his father's dream, to have a son that was an attorney. And later, he decided to go to law school, and then my mom said, "You know what? I think we can do this together." And my mom did not really pursue law, because it was not really her passion, oh but my dad, he was a very good attorney. And he was very good at what he did. My mom just decided not to pursue it.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 03:12
That's interesting. When did you move to Dallas, and for what reason did you move to Dallas, Texas?

D Daniele Volfe 03:21
Ah, that's my nomad husband. So Ed came to the US to get a master's degree in theology in 2004, and that's why he moved to the US. So he came here first. I could not get a visa to come here because I was pregnant, and they had a lot of restrictions. He came in August of 2004. Our first daughter was born in September of 2004. So I was in Brazil when she was born, and Ed was here, and . RâL wa& born in September, and Ed only saw her when she was three months old. This was December of 2004. So it seems like it's just three months in between Ed coming and me coming, but once you have a newborn baby in the story, it was a little bit complicated, but I got the visa and here we are.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 04:34

Wow, that's different to have the delay of seeing your baby before coming here. Did you have a community or family here in Dallas that might have pulled you outside of Ed? Was Ed's being in Dallas just really more for the church, no personal reasons?

D

Daniele Volfe 04:59

No personal reasons, it was just because of SMU [Southern Methodist University], just because of his master's degree. So when he got here, because it is a Methodist University, he went to a Methodist church there, Highland Park at SMU campus. And there he was able to make connections with the Sunday school class. And no, we don't have any family here, we did not have any connections, but Ed was able to connect with his Sunday school class, and they were very, very helpful. Ed lived on campus, so we were there with other students, and we had people from all over, so I wouldn't say we had a community, we just lived on campus.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 05:55

How has immigration or migration impacted your life?

D

Daniele Volfe 06:04

I think I am somewhat flexible. So I think it impacted me in a good way. I always knew that I wanted to come to the US for some time. But I just want to mention this, that we did not plan to come here and stay here. Ed was going to get his master's degree, and we were going to go back to Brazil. About three to four years after we came here, that's when we really decided that we were going to try to stay because it's very hard to find a path to stay here legally. So then we decided, "Okay, let's try to see if this could work." But we were going to stay here from 2004 to 2006, and then we were going to go back to Brazil, at first. So I was open to stay here longer or stay here a little bit. We also had the green card to go to Australia. So if it was not here, it was going to be Australia, and I guess Ed and I, we had been very open to - I mean, not right now because I'm a little bit older, and my kids are are growing up. And when life passes a little bit, it's just hard to move. But at that time, I was very open to move.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 07:44

Is there a language associated with your national origin, and do you speak it? How did you learn it, and how do you maintain it living here in the US?

D

Daniele Volfe 07:56

So I'm from Brazil, and everybody thinks that we speak Spanish, but we don't. We speak Portuguese. I came here when I was about twenty-six, so Portuguese is my first language. My husband is from Brazil, so we basically speak Portuguese every day. And the way we keep up is that I have a person here in the house that will speak the same language as me, but I don't

keep up with watching the novelas or watching the news in Portuguese. I mean, it's my first language, so this is going to be with me until I die. It's not hard to keep up because it was my first language.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 08:44

Do you speak Portuguese to your daughters?

D

Daniele Volfe 08:47

That's kind of a sad story. Remember that I told you that we were going to stay here for just two years? So the idea was, we're going to introduce English to Isabelle, and then Stephanie was born a year and a half later, and we said we're going to start with the English then we're going to go back to Brazil and speak English at home, because they're going to go back to school, and they're going to learn Portuguese with family and with school. Well, we never left. And so we lost that very important window to teach them Portuguese as a first language, and that I really regretted. But I did not know that I was going to stay here. So we do talk to them in Portuguese. Ed and I cannot have a secret language anymore, because they do understand what we're talking, but it's very hard for them to articulate. It's not their first language. But Stephanie, my youngest one, she's more interested in learning pronunciation, and not just understanding, but speaking too. Isabelle, she can understand it, but she's okay if she doesn't speak. So long as she understands what we're saying.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 10:14

I understand can you share about what a typical day looked like whenever you were growing up or a story explaining what this might have looked like?

D

Daniele Volfe 10:32

So growing up, I grew up with both my parents and my brother. So a typical day would be we would go to school. And in Brazil, school is usually either in the morning or it's in the afternoon. So we would go to school, let's say, in the afternoon when I was very little. It was between one pm to five pm. In the morning we would just wake up, watch some something on TV, get ready, do some homework, go to school. And on the weekends, we would always go to my grandma's house, and I was very close to my grandma on my mom's side. And it was a very, very, very big family. We had a lot of cousins and uncles, and we would visit my father's family too, the extended family, but they were in another state, so I did not have a whole lot of contact with them. But it was good. We will go to a park. It was a very normal childhood. Middle class family. Yeah. And church on the weekend.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 11:51

Was your family also Methodist growing up?

D

Daniele Volfe 11:55

No. When I was born, for many years, my parents went to a Bible Church. It's associated with the Baptist Church. It's nondenominational. Then we decided to go to a Presbyterian Church for many, many years until I met Ed, and Ed is Methodist. I knew I was gonna marry him, and so that's when I started going to the Methodist church, but my parents were not Methodist.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 12:29

I see. So I heard you share that you have a brother. Is there anything special that you'd like to share about them maybe growing up together? Really, it could be anything.

D

Daniele Volfe 12:42

He was always getting in trouble [Narrator's note: Not with the law]. Constantly getting in trouble. He also had a hard time in school, so it was very difficult for my parents. He was dyslexic, and I think today it's a lot easier to deal with this with special ed, and it was not back then. It was not easy for him. We had a good relationship. He's younger than me. And yeah, we had a lot of fun together.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 13:23

What's your relationship with Brazil and your Brazilian heritage? How do you explain that to maybe someone that you've just met?

D

Daniele Volfe 13:38

That is one of the interesting things about being an immigrant. Brazil is always with me, but two things I'd like to share. It's that when Ed and I came to the US, or when we go anywhere we go, our objective was not to be in another country with Brazilian people, and so we were really immersed in the American culture. It was something that is just - I don't know, it's just how Ed and I have been. And sometimes we see couples that, for example, the husband is here, and he came for work, or he came to study, and then the wife, she wanted to really keep the Brazilian identity, and she was the one who was always with Brazilian friends and trying to cook the special Brazilian food for whatever reason. Both of us, we love our Brazilian food and our culture, but we really came here to be American cultured.

D

Daniele Volfe 14:51

But being an immigrant, especially in the beginning because Ed was a student, and I couldn't work, and I had the two small kids at home. I mean, the flights to Brazil are so expensive. And it was very hard for many years for us to go back. So we had very many years in within trips to see my family. My mom would come, my dad would come, but for us to go there it was very hard. So I missed the people, I missed the food, my family, Ed's family, the music, I really did. But one way to stay connected is now that we have social media, that helped a lot with

Facebook and WhatsApp, we can always be connected. And now that we can travel a little bit more, I'm able to reduce the gap of my kids understanding who the uncles and aunts and cousins, who they are. And I can expose them a little bit more of our culture. But in the beginning it was difficult.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 16:15

I understand. Could you talk about your school life? Did you have a favorite subject or a favorite teacher?

D Daniele Volfe 16:31

I loved going to school. Especially my mom, she sacrificed a lot for me to go to private school, so I went to private schools my whole life. My favorite subject was history. I went to private school when I was in high school too. So I really love literature. So it was both my favorite subjects. Did not like math very much. No wonder why I became an attorney, I don't have to deal with math. But I had a very good, solid education. And a lot of people in Brazil, they don't have it. I was just fortunate that my mom really, really tried to give me a very good education.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 17:28

Where did you go to college, and what did you study?

D Daniele Volfe 17:34

So in Brazil, as in many countries, you go to college, and it's not undergrad. You just go to med school, you go to law school, you go to veterinarian school, or you go to business administration school. And so when I was eighteen, I went to law school, and I went to a state university, which is the same university that my mom and dad went, which is the same university that my husband went to. They just went many years before me. It's Universidade Estadual de Maringá. It's the state university in the city where I lived all my life when I was in Brazil.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 18:23

I didn't realize that Ed had gone there as well. So was he interested in the law prior to becoming a pastor?

D Daniele Volfe 18:32

No, he went to the same cluster as my mom, because he's an English teacher. My mom was too. So he studied Portuguese and American literature. My mom did the same thing. It's a big university with several schools, and I was in law, and they were in the education department in language.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 19:00

Did you or your family participate in any community events or organizations in order to help build up your community whenever you first came to Dallas or since you've been?

D

Daniele Volfe 19:21

When we came to Dallas, Isabelle was three months old, and then right after that I got pregnant with Stephanie. So because I had small children, for a long time I was adjusting to living in another country. But we've always been involved with church, so you always had to do with Vacation Bible School, try to get the school supplies for the kids. You always had to do something, our community involvement had to do with some events that were happening with the church. But later on when I was able to travel more, to be involved a little bit more, because the kids were growing up a little bit, I've always been involved with the immigrant community, with marches or civil rights. I'm very fascinated by it, very interested. And Ed went to a civil rights pilgrimage with SMU, then the next year, I did that too. So yeah, we try to be involved as much as we can.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 20:41

Can you tell me more about your experience growing up in the church, and then how your relationship with God or your faith has changed over the years?

D

Daniele Volfe 20:56

Sure. This is very, very important to me. I grew up going to church every Sunday. I mean, when we talk about which church did we go to, for me, it does not matter as much as the importance of how we decided to devote our lives to Christ growing up. So it didn't matter which church we were, if it was a nondenominational, or a Presbyterian, or later as a Methodist. This had a great impact in my life. To this day, a lot of things that I do, how my character was built, how my trust, how my hope for the future, how I was formed, I think my religious identity had a lot to do with that. It was very, very important. Now today, I say that nothing changed. It's just that my life right now is just a lot more hectic. I have two kids in high school, and they have so many activities, and I'm involved with the church because Ed is a pastor.

D

Daniele Volfe 22:23

And so depending on the church too, I'm more or less involved. I was at a church where I was physically in the church two, three days a week. And then Sundays we were there from nine in the morning until four or five pm on a Sunday. And Saturdays we had birthdays, or we had to practice for the choir and for the praise and worship. I'm not doing that in this church right now. So for me, it really depends on Ed's appointment, because Ed is appointed to different churches, depending on where the Conference, the North Texas Conference thinks that he will need to go at that time. So my faith is the same, my involvement with the churches is not. So

we've been to very small churches, rural churches. Now we are in a very big church, First Methodist Church McKinney, where they have nine pastors, more than 5,000 members. My role as a pastor's wife changed, but my faith did not.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 23:50

That's beautiful. Did your parents participate in any community or civic activities in your childhood?

D Daniele Volfe 24:06

They did, but it was mostly my mom, and my dad just followed. My mom was a teacher, and she was really involved in - a lot of times they have strikes in Brazil to try to get better salaries and work conditions. And my mom for many years she was one of the front runners of people that were trying to organize all of that. And a lot of times she would bring me, my brother, and my dad with her. So I've been to many of them. To the capital, which was about seven hours from our city. So we did that many, many times. This is one of the things I remember vividly, my mom trying to get better work conditions for her peers, for herself and for her peers. So we were really involved with that.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 25:09

My mom was an educator too, and she would take me along for those trips as well. What historic events have had an impact on your life and how?

D Daniele Volfe 25:26

Historic events. I remember that when I was in high school, we had a president, and he was corrupt. And our country stopped everything, and we went to the streets, and we said, "We cannot take this any longer." There was a lot of corruption, and he was impeached. And I think the effect that will have is when you make some noise, some people may hear it, and sometimes it works the way that you want it to work. So this is one of the things that I remember when I was in high school.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 26:13

Wow. That's something that I really appreciated about people in Latin American countries is that they really take to the streets in a way that I felt like others don't.

D Daniele Volfe 26:25

Right.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 26:26

What kinds of traditions and practices did you learn from your parents, and do you still practice those traditions and customs with your family now?

D Daniele Volfe 26:40

My parents, they did not have a whole lot of traditions. I just remember we would go to the beach every year. We would go to my grandma's house, and we would meet the family on the weekend. Potlucks, my dad would always prepare the turkey for Christmas Eve. But we did not have too many traditions. But the ones that we did, they were very, very sweet. I say this because I think that here in the US, I could see families that had a lot more traditions than I did when I was growing up. But when I really think about it, yes, I do remember us getting together, and my dad doing things a certain way, and my mom, when all the family came to our house, and things that we did, how we set up the table for everybody to eat. It's the little things that I remember from the few traditions that we had.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 27:58

Earlier you said that you were okay moving to Australia. Could you ever see you and your family moving or leaving Texas?

D Daniele Volfe 28:09

Yes. Here in Texas I also meet a lot of people, they're very attached to the state. I am not attached to the state. I just don't want to move because I feel like my roots are here right now. I'm in a stage in my life where especially because of my practice too, it takes some time for you to build up your name, and Ed is here, and we know all the churches around us, the Methodist Church. The girls are here, the school is fantastic, but do I see myself? Maybe I'm gonna retire in Florida close to the beach, but not right now. I do not plan to move at all. I want to stay right here where I am. But to say that I would never leave Texas? I would.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 29:03

What is your favorite memory of your parents?

D Daniele Volfe 29:09

Vacation time, going to the beach. My mom and my dad, they worked a lot, but going to the park on the weekends or going to the beach every year is something that we loved doing. I still try to do it. My kids know that I love going to the beach, it's very close to my heart.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 29:36

What goals do you have for yourself?

D Daniele Volfe 29:41

Oh, I have many, but I want to be a good mom. Because my identity as a professional is very, very strong. I want to be a good role model for my kids, and this will be a goal for me until I die. I want to be board certified in immigration, an immigration attorney board certified in Texas. Sometimes I think about opening my own law firm, and then I don't, and then I do, and so this one, I won't say it's a goal. It's something that maybe I'm gonna pursue, maybe I won't. But yeah, and to be the help that people need. I really believe that, because when you're an immigrant, you need so much help. Yeah, this is one of my goals to try to keep on helping people the same way that somebody found a way to help me. That's what I want to do.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 30:56

That's wonderful. Could you explain to future people out there listening to this audio clip, what does "board certified" mean? What kind of credential is that?

D Daniele Volfe 31:11

So board certified is when - you cannot say that you're an attorney and you are specialized in immigration law, even though this is the only law that I've ever practiced, unless you're certified by the state. So you will take a very big test. First you apply for it. You take a test, and then they will say if you are board certified or not if you pass this test. This is after you went to law school, after you practice for many years, after you pass the bar exam. So I would have to apply and then be board certified. This will give me the right to say, "I am specialized in immigration law." Today I can say that I am an immigration attorney, but I am not specialized, because the state of Texas will have just certify me.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 32:09

Thank you so much for explaining that. Now I'm getting to the questions that are specific to the Immigration and Nationality Act. Since you've been practicing, how have you seen the process of immigration change?

D Daniele Volfe 32:31

The process of immigration, it changes a lot, because it depends on the political climate. It depends on the economic circumstances of our country. So it really changes depending on who is the president, it will change. You will either be more restrictive or not. And so the way that immigration law changes, it's not really specifically related to the immigrants per se. They are very connected to the politics of it. And so every four or eight years, it changes, and sometimes it changes a lot.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 33:24

How did you get into this line of work? Out of all the different types of law that you could choose to pursue, what made you want to pursue immigration law?

D Daniele Volfe 33:37

I had Isabelle, then I had Stephanie. And when Stephanie was two and a half years old, she started going to daycare. And when she started going to daycare, I was about to lose my mind because I was at home, just taking care of the kids. And I said, "I need to do something." And a year prior, Ed came home and he said, "They have this program where our church helps immigrants, and I think it would be a good fit. They were talking about this program, and maybe you could volunteer." So at that moment, I couldn't do it, so I had to wait a little bit longer until Stephanie went to daycare.

D Daniele Volfe 34:25

But when Stephanie went to daycare, I started to volunteer about ten to fifteen hours a week with this program that's called Justice for Our Neighbors. They're connected to our church, to the United Methodist Church, and it's a national program. They have very different sites in different cities in the United States. And I was able to help do the intake. And so somebody would come, and I would have to ask a few questions about what it is that they wanted to talk to the immigration attorney, and then I would just summarize what they needed. And I would just watch what the immigration attorney would tell them while they were telling their stories.

D Daniele Volfe 35:19

So I remember that one day I did the intake, I talked to somebody, and our stories are not the same. What he wanted was the same that I wanted, because at that point, I wanted to get a green card. But his background, the reasons why he came, the paths he will have to take was completely different than where I was. But at that moment, I identified with him so much, because I knew exactly what he needed. And when I saw that immigration attorney, she was so passionate and so compassionate too. I remember looking at her and said, "I know what he needs, because I am an immigrant too, but I also want to be her. I want to do exactly what she's doing." And then after that, I decided to do my research, what I had to do to go to law school here and to be licensed. And I knew that I wanted to be an immigration attorney before I went to law school here in the US. And that's how I started. It was volunteering at Justice for Our Neighbors.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 36:44

I love that. What impact do you see the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 having on your work?

D Daniele Volfe 36:56

So what we do today has to do with the Immigration Act of 1965 directly, because of the preference system. So I don't know if you want to talk about this later on our right now, but to talk about the Act of 1965, you need to talk briefly of the Act of 1924, because the Act of 1924 is the act that gave 85% of the immigrant quotas to Northern and Western Europe. And so most people came from that part of the world, and people from the Southern and Eastern Europe, and also Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and even Latin America, people did not have a chance. And this was 1924. So then, when they passed the Act of 1965, what they did was to repeal the national origin quota. And then all the countries were in the preference system. And this is the system that we have to this day. So I have to deal with this every day. And so some people, they do not have to be in line. Other people will have to be in line when they are immigrating through a family member or through an employer. And the Act of 1965 was the one that established that, and that's what we have to this day. We had a lot of legislations after that. The most comprehensive immigration reform that we had was in 1996. But this particular time, this particular issue of the preference categories, they still come from the Act of 1965.

V

Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 39:16

Thank you so much for that explanation and summary of that. It'll be really profound in this interview. Have your views of living in the United States changed over time, and if so, how?

D

Daniele Volfe 39:37

Yes, they did. For the good and sometimes not for the good. When you are outside the US, depending on where you live, you do think that this is where people make money. This is paradise, it's where you have security, where people are treated fairly. And then after you move here - you have to remember also that when I came here, as I told you, that Ed was a student. We did not have a whole lot of money. And so we had to go through, especially when I was pregnant with Stephanie, so Stephanie could get a benefit. So we had WIC [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children]. And so a lot of times, we had to deal with a few things in the US that we did not have to deal with in Brazil. And it was somewhat interesting to feel discrimination for the first time, so that part was not good.

D

Daniele Volfe 40:55

The part that was good was because I went to law school - Ed has a master's degree from the US, he has a doctorate degree from from the US, too. We have three degrees from SMU. It is very true that here in the US, at least for our family, the more that you study, and if you work very hard - I could see people being stuck where they were, while Ed and I were progressing, I mean financially into having more financial independence. And that's where we are today. So for that, I am extremely grateful. But even being an attorney and being an immigrant, I could see, even in law school, I would say the benefits that a lot of US born law school students had that I could not have. And so that part was not easy to deal with, it is what it is. So that part was not good. So the idea of thinking that this is a better place, absolutely. That you can get a better life, yes. But it's also a place that you work so much, and if you're not careful about the American culture of having to have more and more and more, it's just difficult to try to keep up. And so have to always try to find a good balance in there.

- V** Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 42:49
Thank you. What do you see as your identity, and why? Do you ever use the term Texan to describe yourself?
- D** Daniele Volfe 43:04
Sorry, the term what?
- V** Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 43:07
Texan, like I'm a Texan.
- D** Daniele Volfe 43:09
Oh no [laughs]. I do not describe myself as Texan. I am a proud Brazilian-American. I am full Brazilian. I am a US citizen now. This will be always part of my history. Stephanie was born here, we have children I helped raise, and they are Americans, and now we're both. But Texan? No, I am Texan as of right now, but I don't know tomorrow [laughs].
- V** Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 43:49
Have you ever felt pressured to assimilate or Americanize yourself? You can share more about that if you feel comfortable, and if you don't that's okay too.
- D** Daniele Volfe 44:01
Oh absolutely. Every day. But that does not bother me too much, because Ed and I, as I shared a little bit earlier, we were very open about being really immersed in the American culture. But I cannot change who I am. I am still a person from Brazil. But you see, when you are in the profession that I am, I am an attorney, so I live from talking and writing, so I need to be constantly at the top of my game. And when I came here - when you live outside of the US, you can sing a song in English, you kind of think that you speak English until you come to this country, and you say, "Oh my gosh, I thought that I spoke English, but no. I have a little understanding of it."
- D** Daniele Volfe 45:00
So yes, because of the profession that I have, I do have the the pressure to assimilate and perform the on the same level as a US born person. And with Ed it's the same thing. We just need to give ourselves a lot of grace and a lot of people give us grace too. Ed is a pastor, and he's been a pastor for American churches since we came to the US. This happens too though, a lot of times when people come to the US, they will try to find their own community. Because

we're Brazilian, we would find the Brazilian community and the Brazilian church. So then you don't really feel the pressure to assimilate the American culture. That was not us, because we chose to assimilate the American culture and to be with American churches. And yes, I do feel the pressure, but it's self-inflicted, because I chose it this way.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 46:13

Do you see any cultural gaps between you and your children?

D Daniele Volfe 46:19

Unfortunately, I do. I do because we spent too much time in the US when they were growing up, when they were kids. I wish we had been in Brazil more often. But right now, Stephanie was upset with me a couple of weeks ago, because it was Brazilian Independence Day. And she heard from a friend, she has a Brazilian friend, and she saw him with the Brazilian t-shirt in school. And she said, "Why didn't you tell me that it was Brazilian Independence Day?" So she celebrated the next day, she told her friend, "Can you please wear the same t-shirt? Because I'm gonna wear my Brazilian t-shirt. It's a day late, but it's all good." So it's good, I can see the pride and the way - especially Stephanie. Isabelle, she does care about it, but not as much as Stephanie. But I do see the gap. Hopefully now that we will be able to travel more, I will, and they will understand more too, because when they are little, we can't travel, we can't experience things. A lot of a lot of times they don't remember. But hopefully they will now. We're going to Brazil in July of next year. And so every year we'll try to make a point to go to a touristic place and to eat the foods that we love. It's a lot easier now, now that they're older, they can appreciate more. So we've tried to minimize the gap.

V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 48:01


So this is my concluding question. This recording will be used as a resource to people in the future, so knowing that, how would you like to be remembered Dani?


D Daniele Volfe 48:22


I would like to be remembered as somebody that tried to help others the same way that somebody took the time to help me. Especially immigrants, because when people come here, it's so hard to navigate the immigration legal system, it is very difficult. And it is very sad to say that a lot of people take advantages of immigrants. And this is one of the things that I want to be remembered that I tried to be a good mom, a good wife, a good child of God, and somebody that tried to help other immigrants to navigate the American legal system.


V Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 49:11


Wonderful. Is there anything else that you'd like to add or to clarify about anything that you've shared in this interview today?

 Daniele Volfe 49:21
I don't think so, no.

 Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 49:22
Okay. Do you have any questions for me?

 Daniele Volfe 49:27
No.

 Victoria Ferrell-Ortiz 49:28
Okay, well thank you so much for taking part in this project. I thought you did a wonderful interview, and I really appreciate it. If it's okay, I'll go ahead and end the recording now.

 Daniele Volfe 49:42
Okay.