

ZOUFALIK

INFOGRAPHIC TIMELINE

THE ESCAPE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AUGUST 1966 – JUNE 1967)

- August 5, 1966: Leaves Prague for Brno.
- August 6-26, 1966: Travels through Brno, Bratislava, Budapest, Maribor, and other cities.
- August 27, 1966: Crosses Yugoslavian border into Austria at Sentilj, arrives in Leibnitz

ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES (JUNE 1967)

- June 14, 1967: Flies from Vienna to JFK, then travels to Houston, Texas, to start a new life.

HIGH SCHOOL AND TRAVELS (1970S)

- Summer 1976: Travels alone to Europe for 6 weeks after high school graduation.
- Gains independence and new perspectives during his solo trip.

FAMILY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Settles in Pittsburgh and builds a career in business development and consulting.
- Leads tours in the Czech Republic and becomes Czech Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh.

EARLY LIFE IN PRAGUE (1958-1966)

- March 25, 1958: Born in Prague to Vaclav and Hana Zoufalikova.
- Early 1960s: Family begins planning their escape from communist Czechoslovakia.
- Childhood: Skates, plays hockey, swims in the Vltava, and celebrates traditional holidays

REFUGEE LIFE IN AUSTRIA (SEPTEMBER 1966 – JUNE 1967)

- Sept 1966: Stays in refugee camp near Leibnitz for asylum verification.
- Sept 1966 – March 1967: Moves to Traiskirchen near Vienna; begins learning Russian.
- March 1967: Transferred to Reichenau an der Rax, awaiting U.S. immigration approval.

ADJUSTING TO AMERICAN LIFE AND EDUCATION (LATE 1960S – EARLY 1970S)

- Attends English classes, religious school, and later public school in Houston

COLLEGE AND EARLY CAREER 1977 – 1982)

- Fall 1977: Begins studying Mechanical Engineering and Liberal Arts at SMU in Dallas.
- Joins a fraternity, works co-op jobs, and meets future wife, Katie.
- May 1982: Graduates and takes first job in the oil industry, then various engineering roles.

REFLECTIONS AND PERSONAL LIFE

- Values family, close friendships, and Czech heritage. Advocates for prioritizing happiness, taking chances, and cherishing relationships.
- Married for over 40 years, continues fostering Czech culture in Pittsburgh.