



National Archives, Washington, DC

**“For all of you, the oath of citizenship is more than a formality. And today, America is more than your home; it’s your country. This is one of the things that makes our country so unique. With a single oath, all at once you become as fully American as the most direct descendant of a founding father.”**

George W. Bush  
President of the United States

USS Midway, San Diego, CA



### Total Naturalized Citizens 1994-2004

2004: . . . . .	537,151
2003: . . . . .	463,204
2002: . . . . .	573,708
2001: . . . . .	608,205
2000: . . . . .	888,788
1999: . . . . .	839,944
1998: . . . . .	463,060
1997: . . . . .	598,225
1996: . . . . .	1,044,689
1995: . . . . .	488,088
1994: . . . . .	434,107

### 2004 Top Countries of Origin

Mexico: . . . . .	63,840
India: . . . . .	37,975
Philippines: . . . . .	31,448
Vietnam: . . . . .	27,480
China: . . . . .	27,309
Korea: . . . . .	17,184
Dominican Republic: . . .	15,464
Jamaica: . . . . .	12,271
Iran: . . . . .	11,781
Cuba: . . . . .	11,236

Source: 2004 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.  
Department of Homeland Security, Office of  
Immigration Statistics. June 2005

For more information about the USCIS Office of  
Citizenship, please visit <http://www.uscis.gov>



**Celebrate Citizenship,  
Celebrate America**  
**Office of Citizenship**



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

## The Office of Citizenship

The Office of Citizenship, within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for promoting instruction and training on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and providing immigrants with information and tools necessary to successfully integrate into American civic culture.



Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Ellis Island, NY

In addition to this important mandate, the Office of Citizenship works with partners in communities across the nation to raise awareness of the importance of citizenship by hosting ceremonies and highlighting the outstanding contributions of naturalized Americans. These activities enhance the meaning of citizenship and encourage immigrants and new citizens to take an active role in their civic responsibilities.



Special Military Naturalization, PETCO Park, San Diego, CA

**“Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life.”**

John F. Kennedy,  
35th President of the United States

## Celebrate Citizenship

The United States has a long history of welcoming immigrants from all over the world. Though we are a nation of diverse cultures and backgrounds, we are bound by the principles and ideals expressed in our founding documents. In any given year, more than 550,000 immigrants become U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies across the country. The naturalization ceremony represents an



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor,  
retired, Phoenix, AZ



David Still, USCIS San Francisco District Director, Angel Island, CA

important milestone in an immigrant’s journey. Newly naturalized citizens, by embracing the common civic values that unite us, continue to enrich the social fabric of the United States. USCIS is committed to celebrating the outstanding contributions and achievements of these new Americans through the “Outstanding American by Choice” recognition.



USCIS Director Emilio González presents Florida Sen. Mel Martínez with the “Outstanding American by Choice” recognition in Orlando, FL

## Celebrate America

Since its inception in March 2003, USCIS has hosted naturalization ceremonies at historical landmarks and uniquely American settings across the nation in an effort to highlight the importance of citizenship. Special ceremonies are regularly held on holidays and national days of observance such as Independence Day and Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. Venues in which naturalization ceremonies have recently been held include:

- Angel Island State Park, Belvedere-Tiburon, CA
- Ellis Island National Monument, New York, NY
- Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA
- George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX
- Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, Austin, TX
- Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Keystone, SD
- National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC
- National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA
- The Alamo, San Antonio, TX
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC
- USS Constitution, “Old Ironsides,” Charlestown, MA
- USS Midway, San Diego, CA



USCIS Office of Citizenship  
Chief Alfonso Aguilar,  
Jefferson Memorial,  
Washington, DC

To expand on this initiative, USCIS has begun partnerships with the National Park Service and other agencies to raise public awareness of citizenship by hosting naturalization ceremonies at national park sites throughout the United States. Viewing America’s rich civic history through the lens of its historic preservations reinforces our commitment to this nation’s founding ideals and serves as a powerful reminder of the struggles our forefathers overcame.