



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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NEWS RELEASE

USCIS PRESENTS OUTSTANDING AMERICAN BY CHOICE CERTIFICATE

Ambassador Khalilzad Recognized During Special Ceremony in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad

WASHINGTON – In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions to the United States, Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), presented Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, with USCIS’ “*Outstanding American by Choice*” certificate, at a special ceremony in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Friday, November 10, 2006. This USCIS initiative highlights the significant contributions of naturalized United States citizens and demonstrates the positive impact of immigration by recognizing naturalized citizens who are making a special difference in their communities.

Dr. Khalilzad was born in Afghanistan and became a U.S. citizen in 1984. He was nominated U.S. Ambassador to Iraq by President Bush on April 5, 2005 and sworn in on June 21, 2005 in Baghdad.

Dr. Khalilzad has a deep personal commitment to democracy and freedom. His life and his work reflect the best of America’s traditions of diversity, opportunity and selfless service to his adopted nation. From his early childhood in Kabul, through earning his doctorate in political science at the University of Chicago, to his work as a professor, defense analyst, and now as the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq – his is a remarkable record.

From November 2003 to June 2005, Dr. Khalilzad served as Ambassador to Afghanistan. For his service in Afghanistan, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld awarded him the Defense Department medal for outstanding public service. President Karzai awarded him the King Ghazi Ammanullah Medal, Afghanistan’s highest medal.

Earlier he served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Islamic Outreach and Southwest Asia Initiatives at the National Security Council. Prior to that, Dr. Khalilzad was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Southwest Asia, Near East, and North African Affairs at the National Security Council. He was also a Special Presidential Envoy and Ambassador at Large for the Free Iraqis.

Between 1993 and 1999, Dr. Khalilzad was Director of the Strategy, Doctrine and Force Structure program for RAND’s Project Air Force. While with RAND, he founded the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Between 1991 and 1992, Dr. Khalilzad served as Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Planning.

Recognized as an outstanding scholar, Dr. Khalilzad is the author of more than 200 books, articles, studies and reports. His work has been translated in many languages including Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese and Turkish.

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