



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Press Release

October 18, 2004

20 FROM THE BAY AREA TAKE CITIZENSHIP OATH ON ANGEL ISLAND

New Citizens Come from 13 countries

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. — Today Eduardo Aguirre, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), administered the Oath of Allegiance to 20 new U.S. citizens, from 13 countries around the world, in an open-air ceremony on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. The new citizens came from as far away as Sunnyvale and Petaluma, but most live in or close to San Francisco. Each year, USCIS welcomes more than 450,000 citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States. That number includes more than 8,000 service members who have naturalized through an expedited process stemming from their involvement in the war on terrorism.

“We stood on Ellis Island a month ago on Citizenship Day, and naturalized 104 new citizens,” said USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre. “Since then, I’ve traveled to the Middle East to naturalize our nation’s soldiers. Today, the beautiful and historic setting of Angel Island, Ellis Island of the Pacific, completes a month of naturalization ceremonies in a most fitting and poignant way.” (Read the Director’s [comments](#).)

The new citizens are originally from the following countries: Canada, Ecuador, France, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Israel, Japanese, Mexico, Nicaragua, the People’s Republic of China the Philippines and Suriname. Among them are four married couples. (Media should see the notice at the bottom of this document.)

U.S. citizenship is the essential goal and process that ties every American together. From beginning to end, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is working to ensure that the naturalization and education process is meaningful to all citizens -- native born, naturalized and all immigrants who strive to become U.S. citizens. Throughout the entire process, USCIS promises to be there every step of the way. Over the past year, USCIS has launched a number of new initiatives to streamline USCIS customer service delivery such as Electronic Filing and online immigration case status check, Info Pass online appointment system, Backlog Elimination Plan, expediting naturalization for all adopted children, expediting military naturalizations for all active duty military personnel.

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Beginning October 1, 2004, USCIS will be holding overseas military naturalizations at U.S. embassies. Since July 3, 2002, more than 18,000 military personnel have applied for U.S. citizenship. More than 8,000 have been sworn-in as new Americans to date.

Oath of Allegiance

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation of purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

Media wishing to downlink video from the citizenship ceremony on Angel Island may use the following coordinates: IA6 (formerly known as Telstar 6), transponder 16 C-Band; downlink frequency is 4020 MHz, downlink polarization of IA6/C16: horizontal. Hot Switch up. The satellite feed will be available from 2:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time to 3:00 p.m. PST.

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