



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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# Press Release

## 104 YEAR-OLD IMMIGRANT FULFILLS HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN



Washington, D.C. – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has naturalized Shlema Khaimovich Livshits, a 104 year-old Russian immigrant. Mr. Livshits is one of the oldest on record to have become a U.S. naturalized citizen on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Livshits originally fled his home in St. Petersburg, Russia, as a refugee. He feared persecution based upon his Jewish ancestry. By profession, Mr. Livshits was a shoemaker. He was also a decorated veteran in the Russian Army, having served as a Private during World War II.

A widower, Mr. Livshits has one-granddaughter, age 47, and two great-grandsons, ages 22 and seven. He resides with his son and daughter-in-law in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Just one day before Mr. Livshits' naturalization ceremony, he was admitted to St. Mary's Health System in Knoxville due to congestive heart failure. However, Mr. Livshits was stable enough to be naturalized at the hospital fulfilling one of his greatest wishes.

- USCIS -

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.