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Press Release

MRS. LYNNE CHENEY ADDRESSES SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Signs First Copies of *The Citizen's Almanac* for 20 New Americans

WASHINGTON — Mrs. Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, today participated in a special naturalization ceremony at the National Archives. After delivering the keynote address, Mrs. Cheney, who is also a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, presented America's 20 newest citizens with their Certificates of Citizenship along with signed copies of *The Citizen's Almanac*.

"It's a joyful experience to celebrate citizenship with our country's newest citizens and a pleasure to be able to present them *The Citizen's Almanac*, a fine compendium of founding documents, classic speeches, and patriotic songs and verses," said Mrs. Cheney.

To underscore the significance of citizenship, the ceremony included special readings from *The Citizen's Almanac*, the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution of the United States*. Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein read the Preamble to the *Constitution* and then delivered welcoming remarks. Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, read excerpts from the *Gettysburg Address*, and Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, read Walt Whitman's timeless poem, *I Hear America Singing*.

"These naturalization ceremonies are defining moments for the more than 700,000 new citizens who each year raise their right hand and swear allegiance to the United States of America," said USCIS Deputy Director Jonathan "Jock" Scharfen. "They are reminders that both native born and naturalized citizens are bound together by a common civic identity that transcends cultural and ethnic differences uniting us all as Americans."

The 14 nations represented by the 20 citizenship applicants at today's ceremony include: Bangladesh, England, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Ukraine.

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