



Press Release

September 17, 2004

USCIS TO WELCOME MORE THAN 20,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING CITIZENSHIP DAY CELEBRATIONS

Washington, D.C. — More than 20,000 men, women and children from throughout the United States will raise their right hands and become America's newest citizens during special Citizenship Day ceremonies throughout the nation (see below). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will commemorate Citizenship Day and kick-off the celebration of Constitution Week in communities across the United States.

“Each year, the President issues a proclamation asking Americans, both native born and naturalized, to pause on September 17th and rededicate ourselves to our country and to the principles upon which it was founded,” said USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre. “I can think of no more fitting way to do that than during a naturalization ceremony where we’ll weave our newest citizens into the American tapestry.”

Today, Director Aguirre administered the Oath of Allegiance to 102 new U.S. citizens, from 44 different countries around the world, on the historical Ellis Island in New York City. Each year, USCIS welcomes more than 450,000 new citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the country. 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.

The 102 new Americans naturalized on Ellis Island, including two U.S. Army soldiers, are originally from the following 44 countries: Albania, Antigua, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

(Media wishing to downlink video from the citizenship ceremony on Ellis Island on September 17th, may use the following coordinates: IA (formerly known as Telstar 6), transponder 24 C-Band; downlink frequency is 4180 horizontal. The satellite feed will be available from 2:00 PM Eastern Time to 3:00 PM Eastern Time.) Press can see a list of [local Media Advisories](#) related to these events.

Beginning October 1, 2004, USCIS will be holding military naturalization ceremonies overseas. 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.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony Locations (Does not include all ceremonies. * Indicates a ceremony to be attended by USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre.)

September 14, 2004

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Buffalo, New York

September 15, 2004

Crest Theater, Sacramento, California

September 16, 2004

L.A. Convention Center, Los Angeles, California

September 17, 2004

*Ellis Island, New York City, New York (Read the [Director's Remarks](#); see the [Media Advisory](#))

United States District Court, Phoenix, Arizona

Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, Arizona

Crest Theater, Sacramento, California

Scottish Rite Temple, San Diego, California

Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida

Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Honolulu, Hawaii

Namapa Civic Center, Boise, Idaho

Harold Washington Library, Chicago, Illinois

Maryland State House, Annapolis, Maryland

City Council Chambers, Flint, Michigan

Lloyd D. George United States District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada

United States District Court, Reno, Nevada

USCIS District Office, Portland, Oregon

The Hermitage, Nashville, Tennessee

Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas

Slavic Evangelical Church, Vancouver, Washington (Posthumous Ceremony)

September 20, 2004

Fresno Convention Center, Fresno, California

September 25, 2004

Mount Rushmore, Rapid City, South Dakota

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."