



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS MONTHLY



A MESSAGE FROM USCIS DIRECTOR EMILIO T. GONZÁLEZ

Welcoming legal immigrants into our country is a time-honored American tradition. It is a practice that enriches our society and reminds us of our own family history and national identity. Following in the footsteps of countless immigrants before them, every year millions of people submit applications to become U.S. citizens, petition to receive immigration benefits, or seek legitimate employment in the United States.

Each application received by USCIS goes through an extensive security review and is handled by experienced federal immigration officers. There are specific costs associated with processing each application in a timely manner, determining an applicant's eligibility for the benefits for which they apply, and the management of millions of individual case files each year.

Over the past year, USCIS has been working to determine a new fee structure for our services that will better reflect the true costs of running the largest immigration service in the world. In February, the agency completed a comprehensive financial review, proposed new fees for the applications we administer and opened the new fee schedule to public review. Over sixty days, USCIS received more than 3,900 responses from refugee and immigrant advocacy organizations, public policy groups, state and local government entities, educational and other non-profit institutions, Members of Congress, corporations, and the general public.

Based on these comments, substantive adjustments were made to existing fees that will assist families with children applying for immigration benefits and prospective parents trying to finalize their adoptions. The revised schedule will also expand the availability of fee waivers and exemptions for individuals seeking political asylum and special refugee status, and continue to provide benefits at no cost for victims of human trafficking and violence.

A flexible and adequate fee schedule will allow USCIS to construct a strong foundation upon which to build a modern immigration service for the 21st century. Additional revenue generated from the new fees will be reinvested to improve customer service, accelerate processing, enhance security, expand our offices, hire additional personnel, train those personnel, and create new business processes to decrease the time it takes to process applications. Applicants for the most widely sought after benefits - those seeking to naturalize or renew their legal permanent resident status - will soon see faster processing.

USCIS doesn't make money or turn a profit from the new fees. We have created an equitable way to recover our costs from those who utilize our services and continue to provide a quality product to an ever-increasing number of new applicants. Unlike other federal agencies, we do not rely on the American taxpayer or Congress for our operating funds. This means that more than 99% of our annual budget comes from the fees we collect from applicants, and we must adjust the prices we charge for our services to meet the costs of providing them. The new fee structure, effective on July 30, does just that.

USCIS is one of the first faces of the federal government that new residents and citizens will encounter. We need to make sure that this initial experience is a reflection of the very best that our Nation represents. Through the creation of a new fee structure, USCIS fulfills its responsibility to its shareholders, the American people, to maintain the integrity of our national immigration system, become a more efficient and effective operation, and ensure our historic tradition as a nation of immigrants, keeping our doors open, but well guarded.

JUNE 2007

“USCIS: Transforming Immigration”

[A Message from USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez](#)

[More Information About New Fees](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

[USCIS Celebrates Public Service Recognition Week](#)

[Outstanding Americans by Choice](#)

[Adopted Valor: Immigrant Heroes](#)

[How Do I...? Frequently Asked Questions at USCIS](#)

[Naturalization Ceremonies Across America](#)

[Faces of America – New Citizens, Unique Stories](#)

USCIS: AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION SERVICE

FEE RESOURCES CORNER:

USCIS has created a new fee structure that ensures appropriate funding to meet national security requirements and customer service needs, and modernizes an outdated business infrastructure. The structure is built around a foundation of three **Strategic Pillars**, each designed to ensure that a secure and efficient immigration system is maintained and enhanced.

These pillars — [**Enhancing National Security; Improving Service Delivery; and Modernizing Business Infrastructure**](#) — form the core of an organizational blueprint for USCIS over the next three years and the basis for measurable progress toward clear goals as fees increase. A wide range of information on the new USCIS Fee Structure is available on USCIS.gov.

FEE SCHEDULE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON USCIS.GOV:

[Press Release: USCIS Sets Final Fee Schedule to Build an Immigration Service for the 21st Century](#) -

[Questions and Answers on the Final Fee Schedule](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

FROM USCIS [COMMUNICATIONS](#)

[USCIS Advises Public Regarding Immigration Fraud and Proposed Immigration Reform Legislation](#) - 05/31/2007

USCIS would like to inform the public that, although the U.S. Senate is debating and considering immigration legislation (S. 1348), that bill has not become law. If immigration reform legislation does become law, USCIS will advise the public on how to proceed. Until then, individuals should be cautious of any persons, organizations or businesses claiming to assist in applying for benefits under the immigration reform legislation.

[USCIS Advises Public Regarding Immigration Fraud and Proposed Immigration Reform Legislation](#) - 05/31/2007

[Questions and Answers: DHS Announces 18-Month TPS Extensions for Nationals of Nicaragua](#) - 05/29/2007

[USCIS Commemorates Memorial Day by Welcoming Newest Americans Overseas](#) - 05/29/2007

[Questions and Answers: DHS Announces 18-Month TPS Extensions for Nationals of Honduras](#) - 05/29/2007

[Press Release: DHS Announces 18-Month TPS Extensions for Nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua](#) - 05/29/2007

[Press Release: USCIS Sets Final Fee Schedule to Build an Immigration Service for the 21st Century](#) - 05/29/2007

[USCIS Announces New Procedures for Employers in Response to New Department of Labor Rule Eliminating Substitutions on Labor Certifications](#) - 05/24/2007

[USCIS Issues Service Center Receipting Update](#) - 05/24/2007

[Fact Sheet: Military Naturalizations](#) - 05/24/2007

[USCIS Updates Guatemala Adoption Processing Times](#) - 05/17/2007

[USCIS Terminates Premium Processing Service for Form I-140 Requesting Labor Certification Substitution](#) - 05/17/2007

[USCIS Issuance of Receipts for H-1B Cap Cases On-Going](#) - 05/11/2007

[Fact Sheet: Concerning the Secretary's Exercise of Authority Under Sec. 212\(d\)\(3\)\(B\)\(i\)](#) - 05/10/2007

[USCIS Reaches H-1B Exemption Cap for Fiscal Year 2008](#) - 05/04/2007



USCIS: ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY

USCIS CELEBRATES PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK ON THE NATIONAL MALL

USCIS participated in Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) from May 7th to May 12th on the National Mall, giving more than 50,000 visitors an up-close view of the agency's products and services. USCIS was one of 200 government entities that hosted an exhibit. The USCIS exhibit showcased special presentations on American Civics, Genealogy, the USCIS mission, job recruitment, and innovative products and technologies that are improving customer service and enhancing the public's awareness of the USCIS mission.

USCIS employees from Headquarters offices in Washington D.C. served as PSRW Mall committee members. Various USCIS services were highlighted through interactive displays and video presentations, take-away literature, a genealogy station and educational products such as the "How Do I...?" brochure series. The Citizens Almanac also made its debut, and was distributed along with a pocket sized copy of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

To kick-off the event on May 10th, USCIS hosted a naturalization ceremony on the Mall for 28 new citizens. Three members of our military were among those who took the Oath of Allegiance. As part of Student Day, on May 11th, USCIS staged a game show involving local students and based on questions from the newly redesigned Citizenship Exam. A lively discussion about the agency's new Genealogy program was attended by many as were informative presentations on the required skills and responsibilities of USCIS Immigration Officers.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT USCIS?

USCIS has a variety of positions available including several unique immigration-related core positions. See the links below to find out if a career at USCIS is right for you!

[USCIS Career Descriptions](#)
[Sample Test for Adjudication Officers](#)
[Special Programs at USCIS](#)
[Federal Employment Benefits at USCIS](#)
[Current job openings at USCIS](#)



DON'T WAIT IN LINE, GO ONLINE AT WWW.USCIS.GOV

OUTSTANDING AMERICANS BY CHOICE

The [Outstanding American by Choice](#) initiative recognizes the achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to the country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Throughout the year, USCIS Director González will continue to recognize naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their communities and adopted country.



INDRA K. NOOYI



Chairman-elect and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo, Indra K. Nooyi joined PepsiCo in 1994 and directed worldwide strategy for over a decade. She was the primary architect of PepsiCo's restructuring and transformation, which added some of the world's strongest health and wellness brands to PepsiCo's portfolio. While at PepsiCo, Mrs. Nooyi has also served as President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining PepsiCo, Ms. Nooyi spent four years as Senior Vice President of Strategy, Planning and Strategic Marketing for Asea Brown Boveri, Inc. She was also Vice President and Director of Corporate Strategy and Planning at Motorola, Inc.

Mrs. Nooyi was born in Madras, India. She earned a bachelor's degree from Madras Christian College and a graduate degree in business administration from Indian Institute of Management. Mrs. Nooyi also earned a graduate degree in public and private management from Yale University. She is a member of Yale University's President's Council on International Activities and also serves on the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the International Rescue Committee, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, Motorola, Eisenhower Fellowships, and Asia Society.

As a Houston City Council Member, Mr. Khan has a long record of community service. He has served as Vice President of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston and President of the Pakistan American Association of Greater Houston. He also served on the Small Business Advisory Board of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Currently, Mr. Khan is the President of MAK Development, Inc. a real estate development company in Houston, TX.

Mr. Khan is a living example of the American dream. Earning undergraduate degrees in physics, mathematics, and engineering from the Universities of Sind and Karachi, Pakistan; he went on to earn two graduate degrees, one in civil engineering from the University of Illinois, and a graduate degree in business administration from Rice University. Mr. Khan has been married for 32 years to Dr. Attiya Khan, a renowned Cardiologist in Houston, TX and the first female cardiology fellow at the Texas Heart Institute. Together, he and his wife have one son, Faraz.

M.J. KHAN





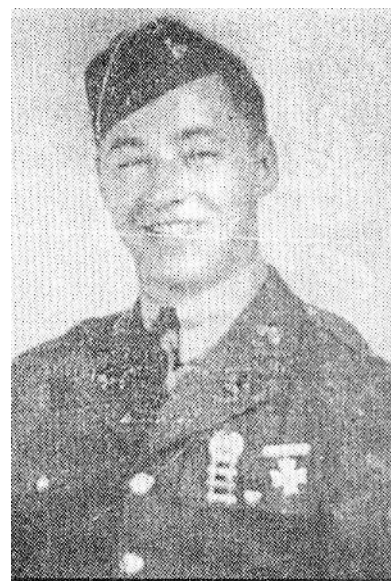
ADOPTED VALOR: IMMIGRANT HEROES

FOREIGN BORN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

COMPANY COOK ERIC GIBSON - WWII

On January 22, 1944, American and British forces landed on the Italian coast near Anzio, 30 miles southwest of Rome. They faced an entrenched German army that was committed to driving the Allies back into the sea. When the U.S. Army 30th Infantry Regiment hit the beach at Anzio, one of those first ashore was a Quartermaster soldier serving as a Company Cook with the 30th – Technician Fifth Grade Eric G. Gibson. Born in Nysund, Sweden and raised in Chicago, Gibson enlisted and participated in the Allied invasion and recapture of North Africa, Sicily, and the subsequent drive up the Italian peninsula to Rome.

In the months before, Gibson worked out a deal with his commanding officer that whenever the company went into battle, he could serve as a rifleman in one of the Infantry squads and go out on patrol. But as soon as B-rations were available, he would return to his regular duties in the kitchen. Under this arrangement, Gibson eventually wound up leading a pack train across several miles of rugged mountainous terrain in Sicily. Later on as company scout, he located several enemy positions and managed to kill one German soldier and to wound another in succeeding firefights. While continuing in this dual capacity – as Company Cook and Number One Scout in the wake of Anzio – he repeatedly distinguished himself in combat along the Italian coastline.



Name: Eric Gibson
Rank: Technician 5th Grade
Branch: U.S. Army
Nation of Birth: Sweden

Then on January 28, 1944, Gibson joined the ranks of the immortal. While on a patrol outside of the Italian village of Isola Bella, Gibson led a squad of replacements through their initial baptism of fire, destroyed four enemy positions, killed five and captured two German soldiers, securing the left flank of his company during an attack on a strongpoint. Placing himself 50 yards in front of his new men, Gibson advanced down a wide stream ditch known as the “Fossa Femminamorta,” keeping pace with the advance of his company. An enemy soldier allowed Gibson to come within 20 yards of his concealed position before opening fire with a machine pistol. Despite the stream of automatic fire which barely missed him, Gibson charged the position, firing his submachine gun every few steps. Reaching the position, Gibson fired pointblank at his opponent, killing him.

A German artillery barrage into the ditch knocked him off his feet, and as he got up Gibson was fired on by two soldiers armed with a machine pistol and a rifle from a position only 75 yards distant. Gibson immediately raced toward the oncoming fire and counterattacked the German position. Bullets came within inches of his body, yet Gibson never paused in his forward movement. He killed one and captured the other soldier. Shortly thereafter, when he was fired upon by a heavy machinegun 200 yards down the ditch, Gibson crawled back to his squad and ordered it to lay down a base of fire while he flanked the emplacement. Despite all warning, Gibson crawled 125 yards through an artillery concentration and the cross fire of two machineguns which showered dirt over his body, threw two hand grenades into the emplacement and charged it with his submachine gun, killing two of the enemy and capturing a third.

Before leading his men around a bend in the stream ditch, Gibson went forward alone to reconnoiter. Hearing an exchange of machine pistol and submachine gun fire, Gibson's squad went forward to find that its leader had run 35 yards toward an outpost, killed the machine pistol man, and had himself been killed while firing at the Germans. Technician 5th Grade Eric Gibson is buried in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

715 OF THE 3,410 CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY--MORE THAN 20 PERCENT--HAVE BEEN IMMIGRANTS TO THIS NATION.



“HOW DO I...?”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT USCIS

HOW DO I...[KNOW WHAT MY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT?](#)

Congratulations on your status as a permanent resident of the United States. Being a permanent resident means you have new rights and responsibilities.

All people in the U.S. must abide by U.S. law, including Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Permanent residents who fail to abide by the laws of the U.S. may have their status taken away through legal proceedings. This fact sheet contains some important things that may help you protect and maintain your permanent resident status.

Where can I find information about life in the U.S., including information about my other rights and responsibilities as a permanent resident?

Adjusting to your new life in the U.S. and learning about your responsibilities, rights, and privileges will take time. In order to help you, we have created [Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants](#). It contains basic information to help you settle in the United States and find what you and your family need for everyday life.

The Guide summarizes important information about your legal status and about agencies and organizations that provide documents or essential services you may need. You can download *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* from our website. The guide is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Tagalog](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Haitian Creole](#).

Keep Your Permanent Resident Card Up to Date

Be sure to file to renew your permanent resident card before it expires. For more information about renewing your permanent resident card, please see Fact Sheet B-2, or visit our website.

Get a Social Security Number

Be sure to get your social security card. A social security number is usually necessary for taxes and employment purposes. Please visit the [Social Security Administration's website](#) for more information about social security numbers and cards.

Register With the Selective Service

If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26, be sure to register with the selective service. Please visit the [Selective Service website](#) for more information.

File Tax Returns

If you are a permanent resident and you intend to maintain permanent resident status, you should file a Federal tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and any applicable State, city, and local tax returns when required to do so. Under immigration law, a permanent resident who is required to file a tax return as a resident and fails to do so may be regarded as having abandoned status and may lose permanent resident status.

If you are a permanent resident and you are considering not filing tax returns, or considering filing a nonresident alien tax return, please carefully consider the potential consequences. Please visit the [IRS website](#) for more information about taxes and tax returns.

If You Plan on Traveling Outside of the U.S.

While permanent residence normally means the ability to travel freely outside the U.S. and return, there are limitations. Lengthy absences, particularly if they involve work or taking up residence abroad, can lead to abandonment and loss of permanent residence status, or delayed eligibility for naturalization. Absence for a year or more can be particularly problematic.

You may be able to reduce the risk of abandonment by filing for a “reentry permit,” using [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#), before you depart. Under more limited circumstances, you may be able to protect your eligibility for naturalization by filing a [Form N-470, Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes](#), before you depart.

Criminal convictions can trigger special inadmissibility grounds when you travel internationally. If you have criminal convictions, you should carefully consider the ramifications before you travel.

IRAQ VETERANS TAKE OATH BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Kwasi Rudder reached down quickly to pick up the small American flag that had slipped and fluttered to the floor moments before.

“In the military, that would be 50 pushups – or more,” said the smiling 25-year-old Guyana native and new American citizen. “That, or dropping your weapon, would mean pushups.”



Rudder and two fellow Iraq War veterans had just finished raising their right hands and taking the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, a country they have all fought to preserve. Rudder and Hector Pena, a 24-year-old native of Venezuela, stood at attention during the swearing in ceremony. Their comrade, 26-year-old Jose Morales, took the oath from a wheelchair. The native of El Salvador lost his left leg as the result of a combat injury he received during the last of three tours of duty he served in Iraq.

Congressional caseworkers attending the seminar were obviously moved by the ceremony. Jodell Brooks, from Congressman John Carter’s Round Rock office, removed her glasses and wiped her eyes as she applauded the veterans. Terri Rangel, from Congressman Charles Gonzalez’s San Antonio office, had tears in her eyes and later took names and addresses from the veterans. All of the congressional staff had congratulations for the young men, and some had a bit of practical advice, too.

Morales, who served 27 months in Iraq, currently is undergoing rehabilitation at the Center for the Intrepid located adjacent to Brooke Army Medical Center. Rudder completed 3-1/2 years in the Army, serving one year in Iraq. Today, he works for Kellogg Brown & Root under contract with the U.S. Department of Defense as a power generation foreman. Pena, whose wife and toddler son attended the ceremony, spent 24 months in Iraq as a cavalry scout. He will begin Special Forces training this summer.

USCIS WELCOMES NEW AMERICANS AT MT. VERNON



On May 21, Director Gonzalez administered the Oath of Allegiance and gave congratulatory remarks to 100 new U.S. citizens from 42 nations at George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. The 100 new Americans included four members of our armed forces. Ms. Liza Wright, Assistant to President Bush and Director of the Presidential Personnel Office delivered an inspiring keynote address.

USCIS: KEEPING AMERICA’S DOORS OPEN AND WELL GUARDED

FACES OF AMERICA

NEW CITIZENS, UNIQUE STORIES

DENNISON CABRAL



Dennison Cabral, a five-time Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) All Star, and the all-time leading point scorer in the Baltimore Blast's franchise history today became a citizen of the United States during a naturalization ceremony at the USCIS Baltimore District office.

Cabral is another example of an immigrant to the United States who regularly gives back to his new country and community. He has been a Soccer Coach at St. Mary's High School in Annapolis and has also worked with the Blast's summer camp program to help youth players who desire to reach their full potential in all areas of their lives.

A member of the United States Futsal Federation National Team, Cabral and the team travel next week to his native country of Brazil, to play against one of the International Futsal Federations dominate teams. In June, the team will travel to Spain to play in the Pan American Games.

Cabral and his wife, Michelle, live in Odenton, MD with three-year-old daughter, Daniela. Cabral began playing professional soccer in Brazil at the age of 15 and ventured to the United States in 1994. He is a member of the World United Futsal Team that won at the National Tournament held in Anaheim, CA in July, 2003.

ARE YOU ONE OF
THE FACES OF
AMERICA?

SHARE YOUR STORY
WITH USCIS



ON ANY GIVEN DAY AT USCIS ...



...the **16,000** federal and contract employees of USCIS accomplish the following at our **250** offices worldwide:

- Welcome **3,200** new citizens
- Conduct **135,000** secure background checks
- Receive **200,000** visitors to USCIS.gov
- Capture **11,000** sets of fingerprints at **130** Application Support Centers



Check the next issue of [USCIS Today](#) or the [USCIS Day in the Life](#) profile for more statistics on what we do every day to effectively and efficiently administer our nation's immigration system.



USCIS AND DHS: SECURING OUR HOMELAND