



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS MONTHLY



A MESSAGE FROM USCIS DIRECTOR EMILIO T. GONZÁLEZ

USCIS employees are some of the most experienced and highly skilled members of the federal workforce. As the gatekeepers of our national immigration system, we serve on the front lines of our homeland defense and we take this responsibility seriously. We can't afford to make mistakes in our work and we stake our reputation on our integrity.

It is personally important to me and critical to the future of this agency that we have a well-educated, highly-trained and professional workforce, equipped with the necessary knowledge, capabilities and skills to deliver on our critical mission. Only by building this workforce of tomorrow, will we effectively confront the challenges of the future and continue high quality service to our customers.

USCIS recently launched a new training and career development program for employees called the USCIS Academy. Administered by the USCIS Office of Human Capital and Training, the USCIS Academy encompasses a full range of training and educational opportunities for our employees. Starting with an enhanced basic training that provides a solid foundation for entry-level employees and future immigration officers, other components of the Academy will provide advanced skills training, offer continuous learning opportunities for professional and workforce development, promote leadership and career development, and encourage staff to further their education during their careers at USCIS through reimbursement of expenses for college-level courses and studies.

USCIS provides a critical service to our Nation by screening, admitting and regulating every legal entry onto our shores. What we do affects people in an immediate and permanent way. It is imperative that our employees benefit from every resource available so that we may maintain a well-educated, well-trained workforce that uses education and experience to develop sound strategies for implementing new policies and programs.

We're currently seeking out talented people for positions in USCIS offices across the world. Together we'll make a tremendous impact on the future of USCIS and ensure our future as a nation of immigrants.

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](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE, APPLY NOW!

SEPTEMBER 2007

“America’s Immigration Service”

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

[USCIS Launches Military Help Line](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

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[Faces of America – In Memoriam](#)

USCIS: AMERICA’S IMMIGRATION SERVICE

USCIS LAUNCHES MILITARY HELP LINE

Members of the U.S. military and their families stationed around the world are now able to call USCIS for help with immigration services and benefits using a dedicated, toll-free Military Help Line, 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645). During the month of August, the Help Line received over 2,500 calls from members and family members of the Armed Services.

“Thousands of immigrant Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have made extraordinary sacrifices for America. As such, at USCIS we are committed to exhausting every effort to ensure that the application process for immigrant service members is convenient, quick and secure. These brave men and women, and their families, deserve this service, and we are proud to assist,” stated Director Gonzalez.

“This new Military Help Line is the latest example of USCIS’ commitment to excellence in customer service,” said Debra Rogers, Division Chief, USCIS Information and Customer Service. “This initiative results from our collaboration with the military and our desire to provide these very mobile customers with access to the live assistance and information they need.”

In early August, USCIS presented the Help Line to the members of the Armed Services and their legal practitioners to assist in promoting the awareness of the service. In addition to the help line, USCIS developed a web page, <http://www.uscis.gov/military> that contains information and links to services specifically for the military and their families.

Service members and their families may access the help line using the toll-free number, through their base telephone operator or using the Defense Switched Network (DSN). After-hours callers will receive an e-mail address they can use to contact USCIS for assistance. Operators will ask members of the general public to call our main customer service line at 1-800-375-5283.

USCIS is working with the Department of Defense to ensure the military community has accurate and up-to-date information about immigration services and benefits. USCIS offices and the designated point-of-contact at each military installation will receive information about the Military Help Line and other immigration-related information and resources geared specifically for the military and their families.



USCIS customer service specialists are available to assist callers Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30p.m. (CST) for assistance with:

- Tracking their application for naturalization (Form N-400)
- Notifying USCIS of a new mailing address or duty station
- Checking the status of an application or petition
- Bringing a spouse, fiancé(e) or adopted child to the U.S.
- Obtaining posthumous citizenship
- Submitting an application for expedited processing



NEWS YOU CAN USE...

FROM USCIS COMMUNICATIONS



[Fact Sheet: Certifying U Nonimmigrant Status](#) - 09/05/2007

[Fact Sheet: USCIS Publishes Rule for Nonimmigrant Victims of Criminal Activity](#) - 09/05/2007

[USCIS Publishes New Rule for Nonimmigrant Victims of Criminal Activity](#) - 09/05/2007

[USCIS Issues Service Center and Lockbox Receipting Update](#) - 08/24/2007

[Questions and Answers: Renewing Permanent Resident Cards Without an Expiration Date](#) -08/22/2007

[Permanent Resident Cards Without Expiration Dates Must Be Replaced](#) - 08/22/2007

[Fact Sheet: Proposal to Require Replacement of Permanent Resident Cards Without an Expiration Date](#) - 08/22/2007

[El Salvador Temporary Protected Status Re-Registration Opens](#) - 08/21/2007

[Questions and Answers: DHS Extends Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) Designation for Nationals of El Salvador for 18 Months](#) - 08/21/2007

[Preguntas y respuestas: El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional \(DHS\) Extiende por 18 Meses la Designación el Estado de Protección Temporal \(TPS\) para los Salvadoreños](#) - 08/21/2007

[USCIS Anuncia el Periodo del Reinscripcion Para Salvadoreños en el Estado de Protección Temporal \(TPS\)](#) - 08/21/2007

[USCIS Issues Service Center and Lockbox Receipting Update](#) - 08/17/2007

[USCIS Issues Service Center and Lockbox Receipting Update](#) - 08/10/2007

[Frequently Asked Questions #3: Employment-Based Adjustment Applications Filed by Aliens Whose Priority Dates are Current under Department of State July Visa Bulletin No. 107](#) - 08/08/2007

USCIS TO WELCOME 23,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING CONSTITUTION WEEK

More than 23,000 men and women across the country will become United States citizens during naturalization ceremonies hosted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to commemorate Citizenship Day and Constitution Week.

As a nation of immigrants, the United States welcomes more than 700,000 new citizens during naturalization ceremonies each year. By raising their right hands and reciting the [Oath of Allegiance](#), each new citizen pledges their commitment to the United States. They accept the responsibility to support and defend the Constitution and protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy today for future generations.

The 125 naturalization ceremonies scheduled for Constitution Week are made possible by the 15,000 USCIS employees who work to ensure the secure delivery of quality immigration services to every individual along their journey to United States Citizenship.

Visit the [USCIS Press Room](#) for a complete list of upcoming Constitution Week ceremonies.

USCIS: ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY

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.



FRANKLIN CHANG DIAZ

In October 1957, seven-year-old Franklin Chang-Díaz was told by his mother to look skyward to see the Soviet satellite Sputnik crossing the night sky. Although the young Franklin could not spot Sputnik, he became amazed with the idea of space-travel and decided then and there that this was his future. However, being raised in a poor family in Costa Rica did not make this goal easily attainable, and Franklin devoted countless hours to the study of physics and mathematics.

After completing his secondary education, he immigrated to the United States in 1968 to pursue his dream of space flight. Franklin learned English as a senior student at Hartford Public High School and then went on to earn a scholarship to the University of Connecticut. He earned an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Connecticut in 1973 and a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. Today, Franklin Chang Diaz is a NASA veteran, rocket scientist and a new space entrepreneur.

Selected by NASA for the Space Shuttle program in May 1980, Dr. Chang Diaz became an astronaut in August 1981. A veteran of seven space flights, he has logged over 1,600 hours in space, including 19 hours and 31 minutes in three spacewalks. In July of 2005, Dr. Chang Diaz left NASA for the private sector.



Franklin is the founder and current Chairman and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company, a private firm specializing in advanced plasma rockets based in Houston Texas, with research operations in Houston and Costa Rica. Dr. Chang Diaz, inventor of the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR, U.S. patent 2002) and other advanced propulsion technologies, founded the Ad Astra Rocket Company in 2005, after 25 years of service as a NASA astronaut. He continues to serve in academia as an adjunct professor of Physics at Rice University and the University of Houston. He is married and has four daughters.



ADOPTED VALOR: IMMIGRANT HEROES

FOREIGN BORN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GEORGE DILBOY - WWI

Born in the Greek settlement of Alatsata, which is today located in western Turkey, George Dilboy and his family emigrated to America in 1908 when George was twelve-years-old. They settled first in Keene, New Hampshire and then in Somerville, Massachusetts. Dilboy actually returned to mainland Greece, after adding a year to his age, to fight for Greece as a volunteer in the Greek Army in Thessaly in the First Balkan War of 1912 and in Macedonia during the Second Balkan War of 1913. Returning to Somerville in 1914, he went to school and worked for a few years before volunteering to fight in the US Army in the Mexican Border War in 1916-1917. He obtained an honorable discharge, but within months thereafter, PFC Dilboy re-joined the US Army to fight in the trenches of France during World War I.

On July 18, 1918, near Belleau, France, PFC Dilboy and his platoon secured a vital observation point along a railroad embankment. Dilboy, accompanying his platoon leader to reconnoiter the ground beyond, was suddenly fired upon by an enemy machinegun from 100 yards. From a standing position on the railroad track, fully exposed to view, Dilboy immediately opened fire on the enemy position, but failed to silence the gun. With his platoon taking fire and in complete disregard for his own safety, Dilboy fixed his bayonet and rushed forward through a wheat field toward the gun emplacement.

Dilboy made it within 25 yards of the gun when he was hit several times by the enemy machine gun and his right leg was nearly severed above the knee. Despite these injuries which would eventually take his life, with undaunted courage he continued to fire into the emplacement from a prone position, killing 2 of the enemy, dispersing the rest of the machine gun crew and securing the area for his comrades.

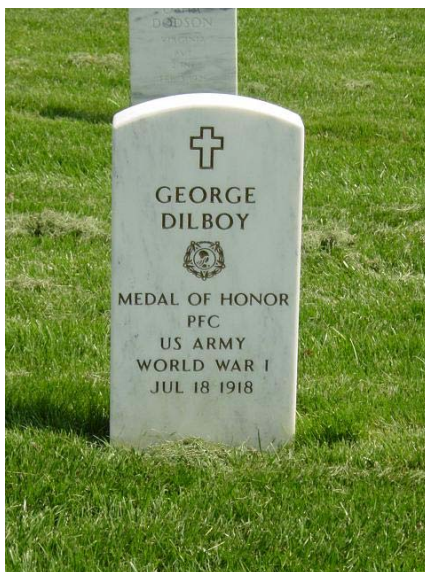


PFC George Dilboy
U.S. Army
Country of Birth: Greece

At the request of his father, Dilboy was buried at his birth place in Greece. After a funeral procession through the streets of his Alatsata — said to have been witnessed by 17,000 mourners — his American flag-draped casket was placed in the Greek Orthodox Church of the Presentation to lie in state. However, the church fell into disrepair during the three-year Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1923, and Dilboy's grave was desecrated.

At the request of President Warren G. Harding, the warship USS Litchfield was sent to Turkey in September 1922 to recover Dilboy's remains. A Turkish guard of honor delivered his casket to an American landing party and Dilboy was returned to the United States. On November 12, 1923, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, where his gravestone proclaims his Medal of Honor status.

Dilboy had the distinction of being honored by three U.S. Presidents, Woodrow Wilson, who signed the authorization awarding the Medal of Honor, Warren G. Harding, who brought him back to Arlington National Cemetery and Calvin Coolidge, former Governor of Massachusetts, who presided at his final burial. George Dilboy was the first Greek-American to be awarded the Medal of Honor during World War I and General John Pershing listed George Dilboy as one of the ten greatest heroes of the war.



PFC George Dilboy at rest in
Arlington National Cemetery



“How Do I...?”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT USCIS

HOW DO I...LEGALLY EXTEND MY STAY IN THE U.S.?

How do I extend my stay?

A nonimmigrant temporarily enters the United States for a specific purpose such as business, study, or pleasure. When you entered the country as a nonimmigrant, a U.S. immigration inspector examined your passport and visa and then gave you a Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record). This record should tell you (in the lower right-hand corner) when you must leave the United States. You can prove you did not violate U.S. laws by turning in your Form I-94 to the proper authorities when you leave the country. If you want to extend your stay in the United States, then you must ask for permission from the USCIS before your authorized stay expires.

Proof that you are willing to obey U.S. immigration laws will be important if you want to travel to the United States as an immigrant or nonimmigrant in the future. If you break immigration laws, you may also become subject to removal.

Who is Eligible?

You may apply to extend your stay if you were lawfully admitted into the United States with a nonimmigrant visa, your nonimmigrant visa status remains valid, and you have not committed any crimes that would make you ineligible. You must apply to extend your status if you wish to stay longer than the date indicated in the lower right-hand corner of your Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record). Please note, you must submit the application for an extension of stay BEFORE your current authorized stay expires. You must also keep your passport valid for your entire stay in the United States.

You may not apply to extend your stay if you were admitted to the United States in the following visa categories: VWP, D, C, K, S

How Do I Apply?

If you are the recipient of an E, H, L, O, P, Q, R or TN employment visa, your employer should carefully read and file a CIS Form I-129 (Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker) and any supporting documentation with USCIS.

If you are in the following nonimmigrant categories - A, B, F, G, I, J, M, N - you should carefully read and complete USCIS Form I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status) and submit any required supporting documents with USCIS.

The application and correct fee should be mailed to the USCIS Service Center that serves the area where you are temporarily staying. If your nonimmigrant category is work-related, then the application and correct fee should be mailed to the USCIS Service Center that serves the area where you will work. Forms are [available online](#), by calling 1-800-870-3676, or obtained through a request through our forms by mail system.

How Do My Spouse and Child Apply to Extend Their Stay in the United States?

If your employer files USCIS Form I-129 (Petition for Alien Worker) for you, then your spouse and child must carefully read and complete USCIS Form I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status) and submit any required supporting documents to extend their stay. It is best to submit both forms at the same time.

If you are filing USCIS Form I-539 for your own extension, you may include your spouse and any unmarried children under the age of 21 in your application if you are all in the same nonimmigrant category. You may also include your spouse or children in your application if they were given derivative nonimmigrant status.

What If My Authorized Stay Has Already Expired?

If you are late filing for an extension and your authorized stay has already expired, you must prove:

- The delay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond your control;
- The length of the delay was reasonable;
- You have not done anything else to violate your nonimmigrant status;
- You are still a nonimmigrant; and
- You are not in formal proceedings to remove (deport) you from the country.

How can I get help?

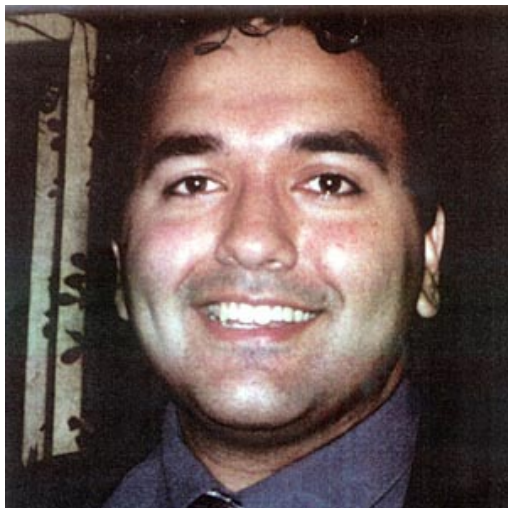
If advice is needed, you may contact the USCIS District Office near your home for a list of community-based, non-profit organizations that may be able to assist you in applying for an immigration benefit. Please see our [USCIS field offices](#) home page for more information on contacting CIS offices.



FACES OF AMERICA

9/11 TRIBUTE

SALMAN HAMDANI – PAKISTAN



Mohammad Salman Hamdani was born in Karachi, Pakistan and moved to America when he was only 13 months old. Equally proud of his Muslim heritage and American citizenship, Mr. Hamdani was a compassionate, warm-hearted young man whose greatest desire in life was to help others.

And he did just that on September 11, 2001 even though it cost him his life. The morning began as any other day for the 23-year-old New Yorker. He got on the train to go to his research job at Rockefeller University, but then disappeared. No one was sure what became of Salman Hamdani until six months later, on March 20, 2002, when his remains were positively identified at the site of the World Trade Center. It is believed that the part-time ambulance driver, police cadet and incoming medical student heard about the attack on his way to work, and immediately rushed over to see if he could help.

"That's him," his mother, Talaat, now says. "He would have gone down anyway, even if he were home. No matter where he was."

"Everyone who knew him thought that was exactly what he would have done, that he would immediately have wanted to help," said Joseph Nekola, a senior director at Rockefeller University, where he worked as a lab technician.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg praised Salman's heroism, saying, "We have an example of how one can make the world better. Salman stood up when most people would have gone in the other direction." New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly added, "He was determined to make a difference, and he did. He was indeed a hero."

When he graduated from Queens College in 2001 and did not get into an American medical school, he refused to apply to schools in any other country. His father told him he might have better luck applying to schools in Pakistan or the Caribbean, but Salman said no. "If I become a physician," he told his father, "it's going to be on American soil." Asked why her son was so adamant about studying in the U.S., Mrs. Hamdani replied, "He was just so proud to be an American." Salman Hamdani was subsequently accepted to medical school in the U.S., but died before he could attend.

Salman's heroism is specifically mentioned in the Title 1, section 102 of the USA Patriot Act, (titled "Sense of Congress condemning discrimination against Arab and Muslim Americans"). The Act specifically states that:

"Many Arab Americans and Muslim Americans have acted heroically during the attacks on the United States, including Mohammed Salman Hamdani, a 23-year-old New Yorker of Pakistani descent, who is believed to have gone to the World Trade Center to offer rescue assistance and is now missing."

Mrs. Hamdani is particularly proud of Salman's mention in the text of the USA Patriot Act, "Salman went down in U.S. history," she said. "The nation honored him. My son did not die for nothing."

**ARE YOU ONE OF THE FACES OF AMERICA?
SHARE YOUR STORY WITH USCIS**

USCIS AND DHS: SECURING OUR HOMELAND