



September 14, 2007

Advisory

USCIS TO WELCOME 23,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING CONSTITUTION WEEK USCIS and ASU Welcome 240 at the Tempe Campus

PHOENIX – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will swear in more 200 area residents during two ceremonies at Arizona State University in celebration of Citizenship Day on Monday, September 17, 2007.

USCIS Field Office Director Mary Esther Johnson will swear in and welcome the new U.S. citizens. New citizen candidates will also be invited to speak, and share the stories of their immigration journeys.

There are 167 candidates ranging in age from 18 to 73 and representing 44 countries in the morning ceremony: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, People's Republic of China, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The afternoon ceremony's 173 applicants range in age from 19 to 80 and represent 41 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, USSR, and Vietnam.

These naturalization ceremonies highlight the Phoenix District Office's successful efforts to process thousands of lawful permanent residents to become newly naturalized U.S. citizens. During fiscal year 2006, more than 700,000 individuals were sworn in as new U.S. citizens around the nation. In Phoenix, almost 18,000 gained U.S. citizenship during the same period. With today's ceremony, more than 8,394 Arizona residents have been sworn in as U.S. Citizens during FY 2007, which began on October 1, 2006.

WHO: Mary Esther Johnson, USCIS Field Office Director

LOCATION: Arizona State University Tempe Campus
Memorial Union /Arizona Ballroom
Tempe, AZ

DATE/TIME: 1st Ceremony - Monday, September 17, 2007 at 10 a.m.
2nd Ceremony – Monday, September 17, 2007 at 1 p.m.

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****Applicants for citizenship will arrive at 9 a.m. and 12 noon, respectively. Media are strongly encouraged to arrive early to interview applicants before the ceremony. Please bring your press credentials and a business card to expedite check in.**

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