

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

In the Matter of the  
Naturalization and Granting of  
United States Citizenship to:

KAMRAN KHAN, JANE REBECCA WAMUYU  
KING, JINDAPOHN KUNZE, CRAIG  
DAVID SPANKIE, MARCIA RENEE  
FERRIS, WINCHESTER YAPLIONG, MAO  
ILICH ROMERO VELASQUEZ, JOHANNA  
RUTH EVA BEALS, LETICIA LIERA  
CASTANEDA, GERRIT GOSNEIL GRANT,  
DEBORAH ANNE CLARK, MANUEL  
GONZALEZ RODRIGUEZ, GLORIA MAE  
DEGRAW, OLENA VITALIEVNA  
SHEEHAN, GUILLERMINA ANGELIANA  
AYALA DeSWAIN, LORENZO VALENCIA  
MARTINEZ, ANALYN ANDRES KHAN,  
and FRANCISCA BENNETT

Casper, Wyoming  
January 9, 2017  
3:51 p.m.

Petitioners.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR UNITED STATES  
CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE SCOTT W. SKAVDAHL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Movant: MR. DAVID A. KUBICHEK  
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1 (Proceedings commenced at 3:51 p.m., January 9, 2017.)

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. Good  
3 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Ewing T.  
4 Kerr Federal Courthouse for this naturalization ceremony. The  
5 Court will suspend the local rules on cameras and recording  
6 devices. And I would ask that cell phones, if you could  
7 please check and make sure that they're turned on silent at  
8 this time.

9 It is the tradition at the beginning of these  
10 naturalization ceremonies to recognize those citizens and  
11 families of those citizens who have paid the ultimate price of  
12 defending what so many of the people in this world seek: the  
13 freedom and benefits of becoming a United States citizen. As  
14 of this morning, 6,913 American men and women have been killed  
15 in action while involved in military operations in Afghanistan  
16 and Iraq. In addition, 52,515 United States citizens have  
17 been wounded in action in the military operations.

18 Let us take a moment of silence and recognize these  
19 American heroes and their families whose sacrifice cannot be  
20 measured and whose loss will never be recovered.

21 Thank you.

22 The United States District Court for the District of  
23 Wyoming is in special session for the naturalization of  
24 foreign nationals to be United States citizens. It is with  
25 great honor, pride, and privilege that I am able to conduct

1 this ceremony today inducting 18 new United States citizens  
2 who originate from 12 different countries. The Federal  
3 District Court of Wyoming, including Chief Judge Freudenthal  
4 and Judge Johnson, extend their congratulations to you and  
5 your family and friends.

6 I would ask the Deputy Clerk of Court to make a roll  
7 call of prospective applicants for U.S. citizenship, and if  
8 you could please stand when your name is called.

9 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Francisca Bennett, please  
10 stand. Kamran Khan, please stand. Jindapohn Kunze, Gloria  
11 Mae Degraw, Lorenzo Valencia Martinez, Deborah Anne Clark,  
12 Olena Vitalievna Sheehan, Winchester Yapliiong, Jane Rebecca  
13 Wamuyu King, Analyn Andres Khan, Gerrit Gosneil Grant, Mao  
14 Ilich Romero Velasquez, Manuel Gonzalez Rodriguez, Leticia  
15 Liera Castaneda, Marcia Renee Ferris, Guillermina Ayala  
16 DeSwain, Johanna Ruth Eva Beals, and Craig David Spankie.

17 Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you. Congratulations and welcome.  
19 You may be seated.

20 I have to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, this is the  
21 most crowded this courtroom's ever been, and it is a welcome  
22 surprise.

23 At this time I would recognize Colonel Schmotzer and  
24 the Natrona County High School Color Guard for the posting of  
25 the colors. If you would please stand at this time.

1 (Posting of the colors.)

2 THE COURT: Fellow citizens, it is our obligation to  
3 show our allegiance to this country at this time by making our  
4 Pledge of Allegiance. And then please remain standing for the  
5 playing of our national anthem.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

7 (Playing of national anthem.)

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 Thank you, Colonel Schmotzer, for the posting of the  
10 colors and thank you, Natrona County Color Guard. Thank you.

11 Please be seated.

12 At this time I would recognize Mr. David Kubichek,  
13 representing the Attorney General of the United States, for  
14 the presentation of the petition.

15 MR. KUBICHEK: May it please the Court.

16 THE COURT: Counsel.

17 MR. KUBICHEK: Your Honor, before the Court today are  
18 petitioners for a hearing on their petitions for  
19 naturalization. Each of them has been interviewed and  
20 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the  
21 Citizenship and Immigration Service who has also completed  
22 their character and background investigations. Citizenship  
23 and Immigration Service indicates in their correspondence that  
24 each of the petitioners have met all the requirements for  
25 naturalization and is well qualified as a desirable candidate

1 for United States citizenship.

2           Therefore, Your Honor, on the recommendation of the  
3 immigration officer, it is my privilege to move that each of  
4 them be admitted to United States citizenship upon taking of  
5 the oath.

6           THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kubichek.

7           MR. KUBICHEK: Thank you, Your Honor.

8           THE COURT: On the petition of the United States, the  
9 Court finds that each of these applicants has identified -- as  
10 identified has satisfied the legal requirements to become  
11 United States citizens and therefore will grant the petition  
12 and will enter the order allowing these petitioners to become  
13 citizens of the United States upon the taking of their oath.

14           At this time if our soon-to-be newest citizens could  
15 please rise and repeat after me. Raise your right hand. I --  
16 state your name -- hereby declare on oath that I absolutely  
17 and entirely renounce and abjure all allegations and fidelity  
18 to any foreign prince or potentate, state or sovereignty of  
19 whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;  
20 that I will support and defend the constitution and laws of  
21 the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and  
22 domestic; and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to  
23 the same; and that I will bear arms on behalf of the United  
24 States when required to do so by law; that I will perform  
25 noncombat service in the Armed Forces of the United States

1 when required by the law. I take this obligation freely,  
2 without any mental reservation or purposes of evasion, so help  
3 me God.

4           Congratulations.

5           Please join me in welcoming our newest United States  
6 citizens.

7           (Applause.)

8           THE COURT: At this time we will present the  
9 certificates of citizenship. And, family members, feel free  
10 to come forward if you wish to take a picture.

11           THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please be seated, and then  
12 when the judge hands you your certificate, you may stand. And  
13 there will be time for pictures.

14           (Applause.)

15           THE COURT: At this time I would ask the Clerk of  
16 Court to play a brief message from the President of the United  
17 States.

18           (Playing video.)

19           (Applause.)

20           THE COURT: This is a day to celebrate what you have  
21 done, the hard work that you've put in, and your recognition  
22 of becoming a citizen of the United States of America.  
23 Obviously there are a number of people that may have  
24 contributed to your presence here today, and there may be some  
25 particular reason that you're particularly proud of today's

1 events. And so what I would ask is if you could -- we'll  
2 start in the front. If you could just tell us what is the  
3 most exciting thing about today and any family or friends that  
4 you have with you. And you'll have to speak like you're a  
5 rock star.

6 NEW CITIZEN: Can you hear me? Hello?

7 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Try this one.

8 NEW CITIZEN: First of all, I'd like to thank my  
9 husband for being here and supporting me and my children. And  
10 I'm proud to be an American citizen now.

11 THE COURT: We're proud to have you. Thank you,  
12 ma'am.

13 NEW CITIZEN: I want to say thank you too to my  
14 family, my husband, my kids, my pastors, and my friends. And  
15 I'm very excited because I know that, you know, we can now  
16 make a change in America, and I'm excited about it. And thank  
17 you so much for this opportunity.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 NEW CITIZEN: Well, I'm here with my husband and my  
20 two daughters, and they're the reason why I am a U.S. citizen.  
21 I also feel like what you were saying: Now I have a voice.  
22 I've been here a long time, but now I have a voice because I'm  
23 American. And I'm extremely proud. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Congratulations. Thank you.

25 NEW CITIZEN: Unfortunately, my wife and three

1 children couldn't get here today due to the weather, so I had  
2 to come solo. But I think the thing that's most important for  
3 me is being able to have the right to vote now. I was really,  
4 really trying to get -- become a citizen before this last  
5 election, but I just missed the outside. That was a little  
6 disappointing. But now I'm hoping to make a -- some decisions  
7 for my family, and I'm glad to be an American. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 NEW CITIZEN: I'm here with my family and my friends  
10 and some people that work with me. I'm very thankful because  
11 I'm lucky enough to do something that I love. I have a family  
12 that I love here, and I'm home here, and now it's official.

13 THE COURT: Welcome. Congratulations.

14 NEW CITIZEN: First thing, I'm going to thank my  
15 family, my wife, my mother-in-law, my sister-in-law. And I  
16 don't know. Thank you so much for everything.

17 THE COURT: You're welcome.

18 NEW CITIZEN: Hi. I want to thank my friend Maria  
19 that she's here with me today, my professional friends that  
20 taken off and came today, but I know they are like in  
21 different parts. And thanks to them that I can -- I make it  
22 here. And I'm very proud now to be an American. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Congratulations.

24 NEW CITIZEN: I am just so happy to see so many  
25 people come out to kind of really, you know, welcome us, you

1 know, into America. One of them, my friends that are here  
2 traveled all the way from Jackson, you know, just to share  
3 this wonderful moment with me. And I'm so super happy that  
4 finally I can be called an American, and, you know, I'm super,  
5 super happy to be here. Thank you all.

6 THE COURT: Congratulations. Your friends may need  
7 to stay with you tonight because I don't know if they're going  
8 to get back to Jackson.

9 NEW CITIZEN: Hi. First of all, I'm really very  
10 thankful this is it. I've been waiting for this for a long  
11 time. Now I'm proud to say I'm American. And I want to thank  
12 my family. My husband and my kids is here right now. I want  
13 to thank my husband, who's very supportive of me. And I want  
14 to thank my manager and her husband, who came here who support  
15 me. Thank you so much for coming here. I'm from Lovell,  
16 Wyoming, so it's kind of far from here. But, yeah, I made it.  
17 Thank you so much.

18 THE COURT: Congratulations.

19 NEW CITIZEN: I want to first thank God because this  
20 has been a very long journey just to get here, but I also want  
21 to thank my husband, who's here with me. I cannot forget to  
22 thank the great people I met in places that I've worked,  
23 places that -- I've worked with different people from this  
24 country. So I just want to thank you all, my fellow  
25 Americans. To say the most exciting thing about this day

1 besides it being a long journey, when I came to the U.S. I'd  
2 been in the counseling profession. So now I see I can finally  
3 achieve my dream because I can get scholarship to be a  
4 counselor in this country. So thank you.

5 THE COURT: Congratulations.

6 NEW CITIZEN: I want to say thanks to my girlfriend,  
7 which is my two kids' mom. And I'm proud to be an American  
8 citizen.

9 THE COURT: Congratulations.

10 NEW CITIZEN: Hi. I want to say thank you to my  
11 husband, because all the time he went with me in this process.  
12 Thank you, everybody. Thank you, everybody. You, for this  
13 opportunity. Thank you so much. I am excited. Thank you so  
14 much.

15 THE COURT: Congratulations.

16 NEW CITIZEN: I'm thank you for my wife. She  
17 supported me. And I'm proud to be American citizen. Thank  
18 you.

19 THE COURT: Congratulations.

20 NEW CITIZEN: The most exciting thing for me today is  
21 just to become American. I am American today. Thank you, my  
22 friends and my husband, to be here with me tonight. That's  
23 the most exciting thing for me. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Congratulations.

25 NEW CITIZEN: I'd like to thank my husband and my

1 good friends from Colorado that came here and my good friend  
2 from Casper here. I came here in 1992, December. I was a  
3 Canadian nurse from Calgary. I was only going to stay for  
4 five years. It didn't take me long to figure out this is an  
5 awesome country, and I'm so proud to be an American today.  
6 Thank you so much.

7 THE COURT: Congratulations.

8 NEW CITIZEN: I feel great today. My nephews are  
9 with me today. Today is a special day for me, and I love this  
10 country. Thank you.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 NEW CITIZEN: I've got a lot of friends and coworkers  
13 and family of choice here today. I've got my daughter and  
14 Dan. Thank you for coming. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't  
15 for you. So I love my life. I've been in the United States  
16 13 years. I've been in Wyoming for 11. This is my home. And  
17 I can't even tell you how grateful I am to finally be an  
18 American, so thank you.

19 THE COURT: Congratulations.

20 NEW CITIZEN: Thank you. I'm happy. I'm very  
21 excited. This is my new home. This is my new life. Better  
22 life, good life. I'm very appreciate. I thank my husband,  
23 family who help me through everything. I am very, very  
24 excited. My home and my life are complete now. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Welcome home.

1           At this time I would recognize the United States  
2 senators from Wyoming, Senator Enzi and Senator Barrasso, and  
3 Representative Cheney for presentation by their staff of  
4 letters: Ms. Little on behalf of Senator Barrasso, Ms. Garber  
5 on behalf of Senator Enzi, and Ms. King on behalf of  
6 Congresswoman Cheney. Thank you, ladies.

7           And, our newest U.S. citizens, those the addresses on  
8 the return or on that letter are where you send your mail if  
9 you don't like what's going on in Washington, D.C. Those are  
10 individuals that are elected by you and us, and so it's  
11 important that you have that understanding and communication  
12 and take an active role in your new vested rights as United  
13 States citizens.

14           So thank you, ladies, for doing that.

15           At this time I would recognize Mr. Cohee.

16           MR. COHEE: Your Honor, if it please the Court, the  
17 veterans would like to yield to the lovely ladies of the DAR.

18           THE COURT: I would then turn to Ms. Brumly.  
19 Ms. Brumly, I believe that you have some items to hand out.

20           MS. BRUMLY: Yes, we do. These are copies of  
21 manuscripts that are very important in our country's history  
22 and operation, and I think you will really enjoy having them.  
23 We're proud to be here, and we are related to people who  
24 were -- served in the American revolution. That's the very  
25 beginning of this organization. But we admire you so much

1 because all we did was be born to the right people to have  
2 this honor. But we're so proud of all of you for all of the  
3 work that you have done to become citizens, and we're so happy  
4 for you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. COHEE: Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 MR. COHEE: Ms. Linda Freezer representing the  
9 Auxiliary of the American Legion.

10 THE COURT: Ms. Freezer.

11 MS. FREEZER: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 MS. FREEZER: This is a flag pin of the flag of our  
14 country, and wear it proudly or give it on someone who will  
15 wear it proudly. We're so honored to have you here today as  
16 our newest United States citizens.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Welch, Mr. Cohee,  
18 Ms. Freezer, and Ms. Digs.

19 At this time, ladies and gentlemen, our newest United  
20 States citizens most importantly, I want to recognize  
21 Ms. McNeily on behalf of Immigration, who is here and has  
22 been -- her office and agency has been involved in putting  
23 together all the paperwork. And she may have personally been  
24 involved in some of these applications. But I want to  
25 appreciate her for being here today.

1           And I also want to emphasize to you that if you have  
2 questions about anything with regards to your citizenship and  
3 your paperwork, she is the person or the agency through whom  
4 you want to contact.

5           So thank you for being here today.

6           MS. McNEILY: Thank you, Your Honor.

7           THE COURT: I would also recognize -- a lot of you  
8 are probably entrepreneurs, and as entrepreneurs sometimes  
9 there are businesses you're looking at starting up and  
10 whatnot. And the SBA, the Small Business Administration,  
11 Ms. Lea and Mr. Immel, have some paperwork they can provide  
12 you to answer some of those questions.

13           Thank you. At this time I would recognize  
14 Mr. Kubichek for any remarks on behalf of the Attorney General  
15 of the United States, Ms. Loretta Lynch.

16           MR. KUBICHEK: Thank you, Your Honor.

17           THE COURT: Mr. Kubichek.

18           MR. KUBICHEK: Ladies and gentlemen, new citizens,  
19 this is -- you know, I have an opportunity on behalf of the  
20 United States to appear in court periodically representing the  
21 Government in various matters, mostly criminal, or in the  
22 Court of Appeals. But of all the things I do during my work  
23 as a lawyer in the Justice Department, the thing that matters  
24 to me most, I think, is this ceremony.

25           And what is so special about this is it's -- it is

1 about you, first of all, because you-all, as the -- as the  
2 young woman from the Daughters of the American Revolution  
3 pointed out, you know, most of us here drew the birth lottery.  
4 We won in that we got born here, and that was it. You know,  
5 we were American citizens.

6           And what that does for us sometimes is create just  
7 sort of a little bit of self-satisfaction and maybe a little  
8 bit of arrogance about how special we are and, you know, and  
9 how the rest of the world isn't. And so there's a certain  
10 amount of chauvinism that Americans sometimes have because we  
11 didn't have to do anything to get here.

12           But you-all did. You-all chose us and worked your  
13 tails off to get to today. And I could tell how much this  
14 matters to you, in particular when the national anthem was  
15 playing and how many of you were singing along with it. And  
16 that to me was a powerful moment, because you-all took an oath  
17 today that you believe in. And you believe in this country  
18 and not just as a place, as a set of principles and a set of  
19 ideals, as Lincoln said, a place that was conceived in liberty  
20 and dedicated to the proposition that all men and all women  
21 are created equal.

22           And look -- look at yourselves. You're all  
23 different. You know, you have -- you come from different  
24 places. You maybe grew up speaking different languages. You  
25 have different skin colors. You probably grew up with

1 different religious beliefs and all of that. And that fact,  
2 those facts, are what make us special.

3 It is because what binds us together, as the  
4 president said, isn't a race or isn't a common religion or any  
5 of those things; it is a shared belief and commitment and a  
6 set of principles. As Lincoln said, all of us are endowed by  
7 our creator with certain rights, and we are created equally.

8 And like a plow horse, we have to pull the plow  
9 together. If we don't, it isn't going to work. And you-all  
10 have signed up for that. And what I love about this ceremony  
11 is it gives me and I think all of us here who won the birth  
12 lottery a chance to think about our own citizenship and sort  
13 of reaffirm our belief and our commitment in the principles  
14 that make America a special place.

15 As I said, you-all had to work hard to get here, and  
16 by doing that, you have honored all of us. So now that you're  
17 here and you're signed up, you're kind of stuck with some  
18 stuff. So, you know, and since you've chosen to become  
19 citizens, you ought to exercise your citizenship with all the  
20 gusto you can imagine, which is participate. One of you said,  
21 "One of the things I'm really excited about is being able to  
22 vote." Dang straight. Vote, participate.

23 And it doesn't -- it's not just about voting for  
24 president or voting for Congress or whatever. Participate in  
25 your communities. You know, be involved if you want. That's

1 really the foundation of our participation in our country, is  
2 what we do at the local level in our schools and our churches  
3 or whatever. Participate.

4           You're Americans now, but you still come from some  
5 rich cultures. Keep that. Share it, because by sharing you  
6 make us all better. So contribute that part of your life  
7 journey to the rest of us, and you'll make us better.

8           Some of you will, since you're signed up, get called  
9 to come down here to work and not just to party like today.  
10 You know, and we take it seriously, and we know you will to  
11 come down here and serve as jurors. And that is a weighty,  
12 heavy responsibility. And that is one of the burdens that we  
13 impose on our citizens and one of the most important things  
14 about our free society, is it isn't just me as a prosecutor  
15 who gets to say whether you're guilty or innocent. I can  
16 suggest, but I don't get to decide anything. Even he doesn't  
17 get to decide anything and he gets to wear the black dress.  
18 At the end of the day it's our jurors who decide whether  
19 somebody's guilty or innocent or whether -- usually whether  
20 they're liable or not liable.

21           And that is a powerful part of our community and our  
22 society and our constitutional way of government. And it's  
23 one of those ways in which we reaffirm that you-all are in  
24 charge ultimately, not me, not him, not these guys. You guys.

25           And another thing -- and I'm going to be pretty brief

1 today because it's hot in here and we all want to go eat  
2 cookies. But there's a reason why we have the Daughters of  
3 the American Revolution here aside from the fact they want to  
4 hand out little goodies. They represent something very  
5 important. They -- as they said, they trace their lineage  
6 back to the American revolution and Washington's army in the  
7 revolution who laid their lives on the line for a crazy  
8 enterprise.

9           You want to think about something ridiculous? It's  
10 almost out of a movie. This band of amazing people --  
11 Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams -- they  
12 convened an army of the revolution, an army of the republic  
13 that was taking on the most powerful army in the world: the  
14 British. And they won. And it was crazy. You know, but they  
15 put their lives on the line to achieve that end, and it  
16 worked. And nine times out of ten it wouldn't. That's the  
17 kind of sacrifice and the kind of commitment they made, and we  
18 honor them in part by the presence of these ladies who trace  
19 their roots back to them.

20           We also have a lot of fine representatives of our  
21 military here, and they're here not just to hand out flags,  
22 although that's nice, and I'd like to get one someday for my  
23 service up here. I haven't been offered one. But they  
24 represent the sacrifices of our people over the last 200-plus  
25 years who have periodically been called to lay aside their

1 lives and represent us in the military and defend us against  
2 enemies who would do us under. And that is an incredible  
3 sacrifice.

4 And when we stop, as Judge Skavdahl does when we open  
5 this ceremony, the first thing we do is think about and take a  
6 moment of silence to remember those people who have laid their  
7 lives on the line to keep us safe and free. And we honor  
8 them, as we honor these gentlemen and women who've taken time  
9 out of their day to be with us and help us recall that.

10 We have representatives from our legislative branch  
11 who are here, again, not just to dispense goodies but to  
12 represent for us an important part of our way of life that, as  
13 the judge said, if you do not like the way things are going  
14 on, you call them up and talk to them, and they'll listen to  
15 you. And if you really don't like what's going on, you can  
16 vote.

17 I represent the executive branch, which is also  
18 ultimately put into office by you-all. Today I represent the  
19 Attorney General and ultimately the President of the United  
20 States. And Judge Skavdahl represents the third branch of  
21 government, the judicial branch.

22 So in terms of this little pageant that we're holding  
23 here, almost all parts of our society and our government and  
24 our way of life have a voice here today to welcome you as new  
25 citizens.

1           So I am privileged to be able to speak on behalf of  
2 the United States to you for your very hard work and your  
3 sincere decisions to become a part of us. We are richer today  
4 because of what you have done, and I thank you, each and every  
5 one of you.

6           Judge, thank you very much.

7           THE COURT: Thank you Mr. Kubichek.

8           (Applause.)

9           THE COURT: There are but few words I can add here.  
10 Congratulations. You've earned the right to be and are  
11 recognized now as a United States citizen. That grants you  
12 the obligation to enjoy the privileges you now possess and to  
13 exercise them, to vote and participate in our government.  
14 It's unique, but each of our three branches of government  
15 require your participation as citizens. Most of the countries  
16 that you come from don't. Most of the countries you come from  
17 don't have citizen jurors sitting in those seats deciding the  
18 fate, the life of a man or woman. Most of you do not have  
19 individuals who collectively are elected by you and can even  
20 be you to run for an elective office and serve on our  
21 legislature or our executive branch.

22           We have the greatest government and system in the  
23 world, and it is because of you, and you are part of it.  
24 We're not one individual. We are all unified and form a more  
25 perfect union because we all serve and work together and are a

1 part of we the people.

2           Please don't be that citizen that immediately sits on  
3 their hands and allows others with less wisdom and compassion  
4 to run our government. The failure to exercise the rights  
5 that we enjoy as United States citizens runs the risk of  
6 losing them.

7           To our newest United States citizens, thank you for  
8 wanting to be a part of this incredible country. May it be an  
9 asylum of happiness, success, and repose. And may those of us  
10 who are United States citizens be reminded what we have is  
11 cherished and sought after by others throughout the world, and  
12 even today threats to our system of government are currently  
13 existing, and young men and women are sacrificing their lives  
14 and their families to defend the freedoms we enjoy.

15           May that always be the case, and may we always be  
16 grateful, and may God continue to bless the United States of  
17 America. Congratulations.

18           (Applause.)

19           THE COURT: Court will stand in recess for cookies  
20 and cake.

21           (Proceedings concluded at 4:38 p.m., January 9, 2017.)

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