

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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

SANDRA LEE BAIRD STOBER,
MESHA LUAN DUNN,
WALDEMAR JAN KISIEL,
EIDA MARIA SANCHEZ,
ISRAEL FLORES HERNANDEZ,
VALERIE MAE PATER,
ADALBERTO JAVIER ARREDONDO BAEZA,
VIJAYKUMAR BALDEVBHAI CHAUDHARI,
HAK KHENG LY,
DELMY ZULEYMA VILLANUEVA,
MARINA GENNADYEVNA STENGER,
TERESITA CALAR DE GUZMAN,
ESTHER SCHAFF,
ANGELITA CATAMURA NIVENS,
PHEAKDEY PHAT INGWERSON,
AMALIA DELA CERNA OWEN,
EMMA DAWN PINDER,
ANNA AGNIESZKA ROUSSEAU,
SIMEONA JIMENEZ GARCIA,
ESTEBAN OTONIEL MENA TELLEZ,

JANUARY 13, 2014
4 P.M. - 4:56 P.M.

CASE NO. 13-MC-4000

EWING T. KERR
FEDERAL BUILDING

CASPER, WYOMING

Petitioners.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
BEFORE THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:

David Kubichek
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Reported By:

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1 **(The proceedings commence at 4:00 p.m.)**

2 **THE CLERK:** All rise. Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. The
3 United States District Court for the District of Wyoming is now
4 in session, the Honorable Kelly H. Rankin, Chief Magistrate,
5 presiding. God save the United States and this Honorable
6 Court.

7 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

8 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to
9 the Ewing T. Kerr Federal Courthouse Building and welcome to
10 this naturalization ceremony. It's been a tradition, a long
11 tradition in these naturalization ceremonies to recognize those
12 citizens and families of those citizens who have paid the
13 ultimate price in defending what so many in this world seek;
14 that is, the freedom and benefits of being a United States
15 citizen.

16 As of today's date, 7,029 American men and women have
17 been killed in action while involved in military operations in
18 Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, 50,640 United States
19 citizens have been wounded in action in these military
20 operations.

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

24 (All standing in silent tribute.)

25 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Please be seated.

1 Well, the United States District Court for the
2 District of Wyoming is in special session for the
3 naturalization of foreign nationals to be United States
4 citizens. It is with great honor, pride and privilege that I
5 am able to conduct this ceremony today, inducting 20 new
6 American citizens.

7 The federal district court for the District of
8 Wyoming, including Judge Scott Skavdahl who presides here in
9 Casper and sits on this bench and Chief Judge Nancy Freudenthal
10 along with Judge -- District Court Judge Alan Johnson, both of
11 whom sit in Cheyenne, extend their congratulations to each you,
12 your families and your friends.

13 The Court will suspend the rule -- the normal rule
14 that we have which prohibits the use of photography equipment
15 or video camera equipment. So today feel free to take all the
16 pictures you wish. Feel free if you can -- it's a packed house
17 but feel free to move around and take those pictures; and when
18 we're done with this ceremony, you're free to pose with friends
19 and family as we -- after we have completed this ceremony.

20 At this time, I would ask the deputy clerk of court
21 court to conduct a roll call of each of the candidates for
22 United States citizenship; and if you would kindly rise after
23 your name has been referred to.

24 **THE CLERK:** Sandra Lee Baird Stober.

25 **PETITIONER SANDRA LEE BAIRD STOBER:** Here.

1 **THE CLERK:** Mesha Luan Dunn. Waldemar Jan Kisiel.
2 Eida Maria Sanchez. Israel Flores Hernandez.

3 **PETITIONER ISRAEL FLORES HERNANDEZ:** Here.

4 **THE CLERK:** Amalia Dela Cerna Owen. Valerie Mae
5 Pater. Emma Pinder. Adalberto Javier Arredondo Baeza. Anna
6 Rousseau. Vijaykumar Chaudhari. Hak Ly. Delmy Villanueva.
7 Marina Stenger. Simeona Jimenez Garcia. Teresita Calar
8 De Guzman. Esther Schaff. Angelita Nivens. Pheakdey
9 Ingwerson and Esteban Mena Tellez.

10 **THE COURT:** Thank you. If we could all rise again for
11 the presentation of the colors.

12 I'm pleased to have with us this afternoon
13 Colonel Schmotzer along with each of his cadets presenting the
14 colors. That includes Bailey Martin, Jordan Allender, Dmitriy
15 Simakov and Clayton Howe.

16 Please go ahead and present the colors.

17 (Presentation of colors by NCHS JROTC Color Guard.)

18 **THE COURT:** Please join me in saying of the *Pledge of*
19 *Allegiance*.

20 (*Pledge of Allegiance* recited.)

21 **THE COURT:** And now our *Star Spangled Banner*.

22 (The *Star Spangled Banner* played.)

23 **THE COURT:** Please retire the colors.

24 (Colors retired.)

25 **THE COURT:** Please be seated.

1 It's my pleasure at this time to recognize David
2 Kubichek. Mr. Kubichek is an Assistant United States Attorney
3 representing the Attorney General for the United States, and
4 Mr. Kubichek will make a motion, I believe, at this time.

5 Mr. Kubichek.

6 **MR. KUBICHEK:** Thank you, Your Honor. May it please
7 the Court.

8 The following petitioners are before the Court for
9 hearing on their petitions for naturalization: Sandra Lee
10 Baird Stober of Canada; Mesha Luan Dunn of Belize, Waldemar Jan
11 Kisiel from Poland; Eida Maria Sanchez from Mexico; Israel
12 Flores Hernandez from Mexico; Valerie Mae Pater of Canada;
13 Adalberto Javier Arredondo Baeza of Mexico; Vijaykumar
14 Baldevbhai Chaudhari from India; Hak Kheng Ly from Kampuchea;
15 Delmy Zuleyma Villanueva from El Salvador; Marina
16 Grennadyen- -- excuse me -- Gennadyevna Stenger from Russia;
17 Teresita Calar De Guzman from the Philippines; Esther Schaff
18 from Mexico; Angelita Catamura Nivens from the Philippines;
19 Pheakdey Phat Ingwerson from Cambodia; Amalia Dela Cerna Owen
20 from the Philippines; Emma Dawn Pinder from the People's
21 Republic of China; Anna Agnieszka Rousseau from Poland; Simeona
22 Jimenez Garcia from Mexico; and Esteban Otoniel Mena Tellez
23 also from Mexico.

24 Your Honor, these petitioners are before the Court for
25 a hearing on their petitions for naturalization. Each of them

1 has been interviewed and examined under oath by a designated
2 examiner of the Citizenship and Immigration Service who has
3 completed their character and background investigations. The
4 Citizenship and Immigration Service indicates in their
5 correspondence that each of these petitioners has met all of
6 the requirements for naturalization and is well qualified as a
7 desirable candidate for United States citizenship.

8 Therefore, Your Honor, on recommendation of the
9 immigration officer and on behalf of the Attorney General of
10 the United States and the President, it is my privilege to move
11 that each of these citizens -- or each of these individuals be
12 admitted to United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

13 **THE COURT:** Mr. Kubichek, thank you.

14 With that, I'll ask each of the respective citizens to
15 please stand and raise your right hand for the taking of the
16 oath. Please raise your right hands.

17 I -- state your name --

18 **THE PETITIONERS:** I -- (respective names stated in
19 unison) --

20 **THE COURT:** -- hereby declare on oath --

21 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- hereby declare on oath --

22 **THE COURT:** -- that I absolutely and entirely renounce
23 and abjure --

24 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- that I absolutely and entirely
25 renounce and abjure --

1 **THE COURT:** -- all allegiance and fidelity --

2 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- all allegiance and fidelity --

3 **THE COURT:** -- to any foreign prince, potentate --

4 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- to any foreign prince,

5 potentate --

6 **THE COURT:** -- state or sovereignty --

7 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- state or sovereignty --

8 **THE COURT:** -- of whom or which I have --

9 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- of whom or which I have --

10 **THE COURT:** -- heretofore been a subject or citizen;

11 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- heretofore been a subject or

12 citizen;

13 **THE COURT:** That I will support and defend --

14 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will support and defend --

15 **THE COURT:** -- the Constitution of the United States

16 of America --

17 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- the Constitution of the

18 United States of America --

19 **THE COURT:** -- against all enemies, foreign and

20 domestic;

21 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- against all enemies, foreign and

22 domestic;

23 **THE COURT:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance

24 to the same;

25 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will bear true faith and

1 allegiance to the same;

2 **THE COURT:** That I will bear arms on behalf of the
3 United States --

4 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will bear arms on behalf of
5 the United States --

6 **THE COURT:** -- when required by the law;

7 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- when required by the law;

8 **THE COURT:** That I will perform non-combatant
9 service --

10 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will perform non-combatant
11 service --

12 **THE COURT:** -- in the Armed Forces of the
13 United States --

14 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- in the Armed Forces of the
15 United States --

16 **THE COURT:** -- when required by the law;

17 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- when required by the law;

18 **THE COURT:** That I will perform work of national
19 importance --

20 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will perform work of national
21 importance --

22 **THE COURT:** -- under civilian direction when required
23 by the law;

24 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- under civilian direction when
25 required by the law;

1 **THE COURT:** And that I take this obligation freely --

2 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- and that I take this obligation

3 freely --

4 **THE COURT:** -- without any mental reservation or
5 purpose of evasion.

6 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- without any mental reservation or
7 purpose of evasion.

8 **THE COURT:** So help me God.

9 **THE PETITIONERS:** So help me God.

10 **THE COURT:** You may be seated.

11 Based upon the petition of the United States, I'll
12 find that each of these 20 applicants identified in that
13 petition has satisfied the legal requirements to become
14 citizens of the United States of America; and, therefore, I
15 grant the petition of the United States and will enter an order
16 allowing these petitioners to become citizens of the
17 United States. Congratulations.

18 (Applause)

19 **THE COURT:** At this time, with the assistance of the
20 courtroom deputy, we will hand you your certificates. So we
21 will hand them to you. They're individualized with each of
22 your names.

23 (Certificates presented and shaking of hands of the new
24 citizens by the Court and the clerk.)

25 **THE COURT:** At this time, we have a short video

1 presentation from the President of the United States.

2 (President Obama addresses the new citizens via videotape.)

3 (Lee Greenwood sings *God Bless the USA* via videotape.)

4 (Applause)

5 **THE COURT:** We have such a diverse group of new
6 American citizens, and it's sometimes fun to hear a little bit
7 about the path that you took to come to the United States.
8 Perhaps it's where you came from. We've heard a little bit
9 about that, but if you're interested -- and I certainly will
10 only ask that you do it if you're comfortable -- but I'd ask
11 the courtroom deputy to hand a microphone around and just take
12 a moment and tell us about yourself very briefly if you're
13 comfortable, tell us where you've come from and anything else
14 you would like to say about your path to today.

15 Again, I don't want to put you on the spot, but we'd
16 like to hear from you if you're willing and able. So with
17 that, maybe we could start in the front row and let you tell us
18 a little bit about yourself. And, please, to help us -- we're
19 making a record of this; and in order for us to get an accurate
20 record, if you would at least, if nothing else, state your name
21 and where your country of origin is, and then you can pass the
22 microphone around when you're done.

23 Thank you. Please go ahead.

24 **CITIZEN MESHA LUAN DUNN:** My name is Mesha Luan Dunn.
25 I'm originally coming from Belize in Central America. I came

1 over here in -- I believe it was 2008 for medical school. I
2 came to Colorado to do my medical rotations. While I was there
3 I met my husband. He's the guy in the back with the pink
4 phone. We fell in love and got married in 2009. We came over
5 here to Casper to the -- join the residency, the family
6 residency program here in Casper. We're been here about four
7 years now, and we were happy to welcome our little baby girl
8 Ava to the world on October 4th of 2013.

9 **THE COURT:** Ms. Dunn, thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 **CITIZEN SANDRA LEE BAIRD STOBER:** I'm not comfortable
12 with this but that's okay. My name is Sandy or Sandra Baird
13 Stober. I'm from Canada, from Saskatchewan; and I've lived in
14 the U.S. for 22 years and figured it was about time to become a
15 citizen since I have no intentions of going back, and I have a
16 wonderful husband.

17 **THE COURT:** Thank you and welcome.

18 (Applause)

19 **CITIZEN WALDEMAR JAN KISIEL:** My name is Waldemar
20 Kisiel. I'm from Poland. I am in United States 15 years, and
21 I met my -- my wife in Poland. She was Peace Corps volunteer.
22 We worked together and then so she brought me here, and now I
23 am an American. So . . .

24 **THE COURT:** Congratulations.

25 (Applause)

1 **CITIZEN EIDA MARIA SANCHEZ:** My name is Eida Sanchez.
2 I came to the United States in 2001. I met my lovely husband
3 over there. In 2004 we got married. We got two beautiful
4 children and one on the way. Been here for a long time, and
5 we're the associate pastors of our church, been very happy
6 here, and I'm very happy to be a citizen.

7 **THE COURT:** Great to have you.

8 (Applause)

9 **THE CLERK:** Anybody else? How about over here?

10 **CITIZEN TERESITA CALAR DE GUZMAN:** Hi, everybody.
11 Thanks again today because you know what? All people here are
12 Americans. All over the world America is powerful country, and
13 today I'm an American citizen. Praise God.

14 (Applause)

15 **THE COURT:** Congratulations.

16 **CITIZEN TERESITA CALAR DE GUZMAN:** My name now. I'm
17 Teresita Calar De Guzman from the Philippines. Okay.

18 **THE COURT:** Thank you very much.

19 **THE CLERK:** Anyone else? Anyone?

20 **THE COURT:** Well, thank you for sharing those stories.
21 That's -- that's very nice and very appropriate for today.

22 We have a number of presentations by some patriotic
23 organizations who are so dedicated and faithful about showing
24 up to these naturalization ceremonies. I'm so pleased to have
25 them here.

1 Let me first begin with Gary Cohee who represents the
2 United States Veterans Council, and Mr. Cohee is sort of the
3 spokesperson for the group. I also -- at the appropriate time
4 after Mr. Cohee says any remarks that he may have, I want to
5 take the time to go through and recognize everybody else here
6 at the table, but let me begin with Mr. Cohee.

7 If you would please be acknowledged.

8 (Mr. Gary Cohee salutes the American Flag.)

9 **THE COURT:** Mr. Cohee, thank you very much for your
10 service and --

11 **MR. GARY COHEE:** Sir, if it please the Court, this
12 table would like to yield to the Daughters of the American
13 Revolution.

14 **THE COURT:** Very well. Well, let me recognize the
15 representatives then of the Daughters of the American
16 Revolution that are present with us today. I understand we
17 have Lory Palm and Margo Everett, Stephanie Prado and Jacquie
18 Carrico (ca-RICK-o). I hope I've pronounced the names
19 correctly.

20 **THE CLERK:** CARE-a-co.

21 **THE COURT:** Excuse me. CARE-a-co. Is that a better
22 pronunciation?

23 Thank you very much. I understand you all may have
24 some items to pass out to our new fellow Americans. If you do,
25 please do so at this time.

1 (Packets presented to the new citizens by the Daughters of
2 the American Revolution.)

3 **THE COURT:** Thank you again, Daughters of the American
4 Revolution.

5 Next let me introduce, if I may, the VFW and American
6 Legion representatives. We have today Dean Welch, Terry
7 Probst, and I believe that's it for the American Legion.

8 And do you likewise have some items to pass out?

9 **MR. TERRY PROBST:** Yes, sir.

10 **THE COURT:** Please do so. Thank you.

11 (Flags presented to the new citizens by American Legion
12 representatives.)

13 **THE COURT:** For those who can't see, they're handing
14 out American flags.

15 Thank you again to the American Legion.

16 Next we have, on behalf of the Disabled American
17 Veterans, Don Neville who has some items, I understand, as
18 well.

19 Mr. Neville

20 **MR. DON NEVILLE:** May it please the Court.

21 **THE COURT:** Mr. Neville.

22 **MR. DON NEVILLE:** Also Bob Williams and David Stortz.

23 **THE COURT:** Welcome. Thank you for your presence
24 today; and if you've got some items, please --

25 **MR. DON NEVILLE:** Yes.

1 **THE COURT:** -- pass them out.

2 **MR. DON NEVILLE:** Yes, Your Honor. We have bucking
3 horse pins.

4 **THE COURT:** Very appropriate.

5 (Pins presented to the new citizens by representatives of
6 Disabled American Veterans.)

7 **THE COURT:** Gentlemen, thank you again for your
8 service to the Disabled American Veterans.

9 **MR. DON NEVILLE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** And last we have -- second to last, I
11 should say, we have Mr. Ron Akin on behalf of the Wyoming
12 Veterans Commission.

13 Mr. Akin?

14 **MR. RON AKIN:** If it pleases the Court, we also have
15 Gary Cohee from the VFW to -- we're presenting the American
16 Flag pins.

17 **THE COURT:** Very well. Mr. Cohee, if you will.

18 **MR. GARY COHEE:** There's also a booklet on the flag
19 from the Elks.

20 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

21 (Flag booklets and pins presented to the new citizens by
22 Mr. Gary Cohee and Mr. Ron Akin.)

23 **MR. GARY COHEE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Thank you, gentlemen.

25 And last certainly but not least, Bob Williams, I

1 believe, has some material on behalf of the Disabled -- excuse
2 me -- Bob Renz -- I beg your pardon -- on behalf of the Marine
3 Corps League.

4 Mr. Renz.

5 **MR. TERRY PROBST:** He's not here.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. He had to leave. Hopefully
7 whatever he brought with him has been distributed to our new
8 American citizens.

9 Let me now turn our attention to our congressional
10 delegation. We have this afternoon representatives from our
11 congressional delegation beginning with Jackie King on behalf
12 of Congresswoman Lummis, Kelly Thompson Carpenter on behalf of
13 Senator Enzi's office, and we have John Gallegos on behalf of
14 Senator Barrasso's office.

15 Welcome to all of you. Thank you for your presence,
16 and I understand that you have letters and items to provide to
17 the citizens as well. Please do so. Thank you.

18 (Packets presented to the new citizens by the congressional
19 delegation.)

20 **THE COURT:** I hope you all brought a small piece of
21 luggage for all of the items you're receiving.

22 (Laughter)

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you again to all of you for making
24 these presentations.

25 It's now my special honor to introduce to you once

1 again David Kubichek. Mr. Kubichek has served his country as a
2 member of the United States Attorney's Office and is an
3 employee with the Department of Justice for now over 36 years,
4 I believe, and I can't think of a finer speaker and a finer
5 person to make some remarks to each of you new citizens.

6 I had the good fortune of working closely with
7 Mr. Kubichek for a number of years. He's a terrific friend and
8 a close former colleague of mine. So it's again a special
9 honor to introduce Mr. Kubichek.

10 **MR. KUBICHEK:** Thank you, Your Honor. May it please
11 the Court.

12 Wow, this is really a special day for you and for your
13 families and for all of us, too. This is one of those times
14 when those of us who got our citizenship the easy way -- and I
15 include Judge Rankin and myself in that list and probably most
16 people here -- we just got born here. I mean, we didn't have
17 to do anything special. We didn't have to study anything. We
18 just drew the right card and got lucky and got born here.

19 You know, you all had to work for it. I mean, you had
20 to get here legally. You had to study. You had to take tests.
21 You had to endure a background check. You had to go through
22 all kind of hoops, around all kinds of corners to get to today,
23 and that represents just an amazing amount of commitment to
24 join us in what is an imperfect union but one that I believe
25 today and always is striving to be more perfect, and one of the

1 ways we get there is by welcoming you to join us into our
2 family.

3 Before I say much more, I want to take just a second
4 because I've been sitting at this table by myself.
5 Historically -- and I've been doing these for 20-plus years in
6 this courtroom. Historically sitting to my left is a member of
7 the bar and a member of the veterans community, Stan Lowe; and
8 Stan is not with us today, but I know some or all of you are in
9 communication with him.

10 So if -- he is one of our surviving World War II
11 veterans, and we're becoming increasingly scarce in that
12 category; but Stan attended every single one of these two,
13 three, four times a year and addressed our new citizens on
14 behalf of the veterans, and -- and he's not here today for
15 health reasons, I think, and -- but he would like to be here,
16 and he would like to welcome you on behalf of all of those
17 people and all of these gentlemen who represent millions of
18 Americans who have served and put their lives and their
19 fortunes on the line in defense of our country. So -- so I
20 just want to take a moment and remember Stan Lowe who I know
21 wants to be here and I wish he were. I saw him not too long
22 ago at a brunch, and he was looking good but not mobile. So
23 pass on my remarks to Stan and tell him he was missed.

24 So we have 11 countries represented today, everywhere
25 from Canada to Kampuchea, to China, to Cambodia and Russia and

1 El Salvador, India, Mexico, Poland. That is quite -- quite a
2 smorgasbord of places you all represent; and, you know, what
3 makes America different, one of the things that make us
4 different, is we don't all look alike, and we don't all come
5 from the same place originally.

6 My ancestors came from Czechoslovakia, what is now the
7 Czech Republic, you know, and they were immigrants just like
8 you were, and they became citizens the old-fashioned way, the
9 way you did, two or three generations ago. And my wife's
10 family is from Germany originally and England, and -- and
11 what's interesting about that is that we add so much richness
12 to our community by having so many different kinds of people
13 and so many different traditions and backgrounds. You all have
14 so many different life experiences, and the rest us can be
15 enriched when you share those with us. You have different
16 talents and different perspectives; and by sharing those you
17 make us a stronger, more vibrant place. I think that is one of
18 the things that makes us most special.

19 If I could stand here and say that we were a perfect
20 place, I would be lying. We're not. But as I said earlier,
21 we're trying to be better, and that's something that all of you
22 can help us be, and there are things about becoming American
23 citizens that is really sort of special. I have a -- and
24 that's a message that has been sort of reinforced in me because
25 a very good friend of mine now who works for me every week or

1 so became a citizen about two years ago. She came here from
2 the old Yugoslavia, and she came here in 1994 when her country
3 was ravaged by war, when the Serbians and the Bosnian
4 Herzegovinians and all of them were suddenly mired in a civil
5 war that involved races and religions, fighting races and
6 religions, and she escaped all of that, and she came to the
7 United States. In 1994 she went to school here in Florida, and
8 then ultimately she moved to Wyoming when she found the love of
9 her life, and -- and as I think about this ceremony I think
10 about her.

11 You know, when I talk to her about what she thinks
12 about being an American citizenship, she says, you know, what's
13 great about this is, number one, the opportunity she has to
14 make something of herself if she just works at it, you know.
15 She has her own business now, and she works every day at it,
16 but she can do it, and she's -- she can succeed if she tries
17 hard and if she works at it and if she studies and if she takes
18 advantage of her opportunities. She's not held back by the
19 fact that she's from Serbia, you know. That doesn't disqualify
20 her, doesn't disqualify her that she's a woman, doesn't
21 disqualify her that she's a member or not a member of any
22 particular political party or any religion. She can be what
23 she wants to be with a little bit of luck and a lot of hard
24 work as an American citizen, and none of that other stuff
25 matters. She can -- she can vote. She can give a speech if

1 she wants. She can do all kinds of things, and she's not going
2 to have to look over her shoulder and wonder, "Well, you know,
3 is the police watching me? You know, am I saying something
4 that's going to get me in trouble?"

5 You know, we don't offer perfection but we offer that,
6 you know. You can believe, you can think, you can say what's
7 in your heart and what you believe, and you're not going to be
8 put in jail. You're not going to have people running you down.

9 Now, you know, do we have knuckleheads? Sure. She'll
10 tell me, you know, there are people who come up to her -- and
11 she speaks with a little bit of an accent. They say, "Well,
12 you must be a 'Commi,'" you know. What do you do, you know?

13 We have our share of knuckleheads, but the good part
14 is that there are not that many of them, and most people in
15 America, certainly most people in this community, will take you
16 as you are, and they care about what's in your head and what's
17 in your heart, not where you're from, not what your religion
18 is, not what your political beliefs are, and so you and your
19 children can be whomever you want to be if you just work and
20 try, and nothing about where you're from or what you believe or
21 your religion or your ethnicity is going to hold you back, and
22 that's what America offers.

23 Now, as the President said in his little address to
24 you, with all of that comes some responsibilities, you know.
25 It's fitting we have this conversation today and this ceremony

1 in this room because all of you now are eligible to get
2 summoned to jury duty. You know, you might have to come down
3 here and join us on an official level and participate with
4 Judge Rankin or Judge Skavdahl, and I want you to accept that
5 duty joyfully as part of your new denouement as citizens.

6 You also will have a chance to vote, and you will have
7 a chance to be active in the affairs of your community,
8 involved in the school board or in your schools, involved
9 otherwise in your community. Share with us what you've brought
10 to us. You all have life experiences, histories; and as, you
11 know, Judge Rankin mentioned, that's -- that all enriches us
12 and we want to know about that, and we want you to embrace this
13 chance with all the vigor and enthusiasm that you have and
14 become -- because typically our new citizens are our model
15 citizens; and what I love about this ceremony is all of us who
16 get to come here sort of have a reaffirmation of our
17 citizenship when you join us because but for this, a lot of us
18 kind of take it for granted and -- and we shouldn't.

19 So let me just say again, on behalf of the President,
20 on behalf of the Attorney General, on behalf of all of these
21 fellows and all the people that they represent who have put
22 their lives on the line to make sure that America stays free
23 and stays -- stays the kind of place where you would want to
24 immigrate to -- let me thank you again and welcome you as
25 citizens; and -- and since I'm the only thing, other than

1 Judge Rankin's remarks, standing between you and treats, I'm
2 going to conclude my remarks right now and wish you all well,
3 and thank you again for coming and doing this thing today.

4 (Applause)

5 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Kubichek. Nice words and I
6 echo the well wishes that you offered to Stan Lowe. He's been
7 at that table as long as I can remember, and we wish him well
8 and hope to see him at the next naturalization ceremony.

9 Well, let me say again welcome. You are now all
10 Americans. How much time did you spend working to become a
11 citizen? We talked a little bit about your path, where you
12 came from, how long it took for this day to arrive; and as I
13 look out in the audience, I know I see many happy, joyous,
14 smiling faces among your friends and your family.

15 As Mr. Kubichek said, I really feel like everybody
16 should participate in this ceremony -- we probably would have
17 trouble passing the test that you just passed but -- if for no
18 other reason to see what you endure and to hear your stories,
19 and I think every American should consider that and ponder that
20 from time to time.

21 It's such a meaningful thing to me that I today pulled
22 my ten-year-old son out of school to be here with you. He's
23 seated right here. He's witness number one.

24 (Laughter)

25 **THE COURT:** So Harrison is here and I know he's

1 lapping it up, and I'm sure that it will leave an impression
2 upon him in the years to come; at least I hope it does.

3 Well, an interesting side note real quickly to the
4 oath of allegiance that you took a few moments ago, other than
5 the fact that it's very long, I can tell you that it has been
6 given to new citizens such as yourselves for a very long time.
7 It is -- in fact, it started officially and it's recorded in
8 the oaths of allegiance that were made in 1778 at Valley Forge
9 during the first -- or "the," rather, American Revolutionary
10 War. So that oath has been given for a very long time, and you
11 have taken the same oath that other new citizens have taken for
12 the last 235 plus years.

13 Well, so what does it mean to be an American? Well,
14 of course, it means you get to vote, you now get to serve on a
15 jury, and you now get to enjoy all of the freedoms and
16 liberties of newly sworn citizens of the United States of
17 America, and no doubt these are important liberties and rights
18 that we all share, rights and liberties that people all over
19 the world envy, no doubt.

20 But what else does it mean to be an American? It
21 means that you are free. It means that we are free. And
22 Abraham Lincoln said: "Freedom is not the right to do what we
23 want but what we ought. Let us have faith that right makes
24 might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our
25 duty as we understand it."

1 More Than freedom, as President Theodore Roosevelt
2 once said, "Americanism is a question of principles, of
3 idealism, of character. It is not a matter of birthplace or
4 creed or line of descent."

5 And I would only add that this country's power lies in
6 its citizens' uniqueness and really in their unity. You are
7 doing more today and have done more today than completing a
8 legal process. You are making a lifelong promise to uphold the
9 laws and the values --

10 (Telephone commences ringing in the courtroom.)

11 **THE COURT:** -- that make America what it is. That
12 promise comes with a telephone ring --

13 (Laughter)

14 **THE COURT:** -- from time to time, but that promise
15 comes with great privileges, great privileges of American
16 citizenship, and it also comes with great responsibilities.

17 (Telephone continues ringing.)

18 **THE COURT:** You would think they would give up at some
19 point.

20 (Laughter)

21 **THE COURT:** We'll just have to find the plug and
22 unplug it.

23 (Telephone continues ringing.)

24 **THE COURT:** You gotta love technology, right?

25 Let me just say that -- and I'll close -- new

1 employment and leadership doors are being open wide to each of
2 you today.

3 (Telephone continues ringing.)

4 **THE COURT:** I'm just going to finish.

5 (Laughter)

6 **THE COURT:** Those doors -- I would encourage you to
7 explore what lies behind each of those doors. Again, there's
8 no doubt that each of your communities have much to gain from
9 each of you and each of you in the years to come. Again,
10 congratulations and welcome. You have worked incredibly hard
11 to earn your citizenship, and I know I speak for all of your
12 Wyoming neighbors when I say that we are grateful to have you.
13 Congratulations again.

14 Now, before we recess and hopefully ultimately hang up
15 that phone, we do have, when we're done with this ceremony --
16 and we're moments away -- in the back hall area we have some
17 light refreshments. As I mentioned from the outset, if you
18 would like to take any pictures anywhere in the courtroom of
19 family and friends, have at it.

20 So with that -- unless there's anything further from
21 the United States, Mr. Kubichek?

22 **MR. KUBICHEK:** Nothing from the United States,
23 Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** All right. If there's nothing further,
25 congratulations and we will stand in recess.

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THE CLERK: All rise.
(Applause)
(The proceedings conclude at 4:56 p.m.)

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