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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
NATURALIZATION AND GRANTING OF  
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO

Cheyenne, Wyoming  
March 6, 2017  
10:00 a.m.  
East High School

JAMES QUERICO EBAJAY DEL PUERTO,  
LAWRENCE BOAHEN, MARION KERSHAW,  
NEIL FRANK HUMPHREY, ANNA ZAJACOVA,  
KHAMA BASSILI TOLO, LAURA DENISSE BERRY,

Petitioners.

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

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL  
Chief United States District Judge, Presiding  
THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON  
United States District Judge  
THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN  
Chief United States Magistrate Judge  
THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN PARKER  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

APPEARANCES:  
For the UNITED STATES: C. LEVI MARTIN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 4000  
P.O. Box 668  
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Court Reporter: MRS. JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR, CRR  
Federal Official Court Reporter  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2226  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
(307) 222-3147

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
produced with computer.

1 (Proceedings commenced 10:00 a.m., March 6, 2017.)

2 (Presentation of Colors; Star-Spangled Banner.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated.

4 Thank you for welcoming us here at East High School.  
5 It is a pleasure to see such a full auditorium to celebrate and  
6 welcome our new citizens. Thank you to the East High ROTC  
7 under the direction of Colonel Rod Peoples for the posting of  
8 the Colors, as well as the East High Singers' wonderful  
9 rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. They perform under the  
10 direction of LaDonna Backman.

11 Welcome to you all. Welcome especially to our  
12 new-to-be citizens.

13 And thank you again to East High School for welcoming  
14 us and allowing us to interrupt the course of the school day  
15 for this important naturalization ceremony.

16 I would ask the representative from the U.S.  
17 Attorney's Office, Mr. Levi Martin, to provide a roll call of  
18 the citizens to be naturalized.

19 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal.

20 Good morning to you and the rest of the members of the  
21 Judiciary, our distinguished guests and our fellow citizens. I  
22 am here today appearing as a representative of the United  
23 States Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming and in  
24 proxy for the Attorney General of the United States.

25 It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce to the

1 Court the following individuals who appear in person for a  
2 hearing on their petition for naturalization as citizens:

3           Seated from left to right in the middle row in front  
4 of Your Honor -- and if you folks would, when I call your name,  
5 stand to be recognized, please -- we have Mr. James Querico  
6 Ebajay Del Puerto. He's now in Gillette. He is a native and  
7 former inhabitant of the Philippines.

8           We have Lawrence Boahen from Evansville, native and  
9 former inhabitant of Ghana.

10           We have Marion Kershaw from Cheyenne, native and  
11 former inhabitant of Germany.

12           We have Neil Frank Humphrey, native and former in  
13 habitant of Canada; Anna Zajacova, native and former in  
14 habitant of the Slovak Republic; Khama Bassili Tolo, also in  
15 Laramie, a native and former inhabitant of Zaire; Laura Denisse  
16 Berry from Cheyenne, a native and former inhabitant of Mexico.

17           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. I would invite  
18 your motion for naturalization.

19           MR. MARTIN: Thank you. At this time as a fellow  
20 citizen of the United States I want to welcome and congratulate  
21 each of you on this very special occasion.

22           And at this time it is my distinct honor, Judge, to  
23 move that these Petitioners be granted United States  
24 citizenship upon taking of the oath.

25           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. I would ask my

1 fellow judges to stand for the administration of the oath.

2           You're welcome to follow along on the oath to be taken  
3 by our new citizens. It appears on the back cover of your  
4 brochure.

5           Please raise your right hand.

6           I, state your name, hereby declare on oath that I  
7 absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and  
8 fidelity to any foreign prince or potentate, state or  
9 sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject  
10 or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and  
11 laws of the United States of America against all enemies,  
12 foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance  
13 to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United  
14 States when required by the law; that I will perform work of  
15 national importance under civil direction when required by the  
16 law; and that I will take this obligation freely, without any  
17 mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

18           Welcome. Let's welcome our new citizens.

19           (Applause.)

20           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Congratulations to each of  
21 you. You may take your seats.

22           Well, after asking you to take your seat, I now invite  
23 you to stand and -- for purposes of joining our new citizens in  
24 pledging allegiance to our flag.

25           (Pledge of Allegiance.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. Please be  
2 seated.

3 At this time we're blessed by the music of the East  
4 High Concert Choir, again under the direction of LaDonna  
5 Backman. They will be performing God Bless America.

6 (God Bless America.)

7 (Applause.)

8 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I'm pleased to introduce a  
9 longtime friend of my husband and mine -- my husband asked me  
10 to pass along his best wishes, Ronn -- and fellow judge, Ronn  
11 Jeffrey. He has served as the Juvenile Court Judge for the  
12 Cheyenne Municipal Court since 2006. Prior to his elevation to  
13 the bench, he served as the Director of the Office of Youth  
14 Alternatives, a nationally recognized youth and family  
15 counseling center here in Cheyenne.

16 He's a Wyoming native, a self-professed momma's boy.  
17 He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and  
18 Anthropology from Chadron State College and his Master of  
19 Science degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

20 Ronn has taught courses at the University of Wyoming,  
21 the University of Northern Colorado and Laramie County  
22 Community College.

23 He's a published author, having co-authored A Guide  
24 for the Family Therapist, and he's published in the Journal of  
25 Continuing Social Work Education. He's achieved the rank of

1 Approved Supervisor and is a Clinical Fellow of the American  
2 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He was a founding  
3 member and past president of the Wyoming Association of  
4 Marriage and Family Therapy.

5 Judge Jeffrey has received numerous awards, including  
6 his selection as a recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Alumnae  
7 Award from Chadron State College in Nebraska. He was also  
8 honored previously as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnae  
9 Award from Central High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

10 Ronn's the father of two adult daughters. He still  
11 blesses us by residing here in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and is the  
12 devoted husband to his wife of 40 years, Marilyn.

13 Judge, I would invite you to share some comments.

14 JUDGE JEFFREY: First off, I would like to thank the  
15 Honorable Judge Nancy Freudenthal for giving me this  
16 opportunity to speak to you today. You know, I'm extremely  
17 honored to share this special time with you.

18 Today is of great significance to you, each and every  
19 one of you, to your family, your friends, and to America, your  
20 adopted country. I envy you. I envy you. I was blessed to  
21 have been born in this country, but you chose America. I can  
22 only imagine the thoughts and feelings that are going through  
23 your mind at this particular moment.

24 Often the freedoms that we cherish are taken for  
25 granted by many of us as Americans, particularly our greatest

1 freedom, the freedom of choice. I'm not just talking about  
2 choosing what shirt you will wear or what you want for dinner.  
3 I'm talking about attending a church of your choice without  
4 fear of persecution, voting for a candidate of your choice  
5 without fear of retaliation, or simply deciding not to vote or  
6 practice religion. It's all your choice.

7           Look at my face. I don't look like everyone that's in  
8 this room. Some of you may be thinner. Some of you may be  
9 taller. Your skin may be lighter or your skin may be darker.  
10 Your eyes may be blue while mine are brown. You may have more  
11 hair, although I doubt that any of you have less.

12           You see, God made us all different and painted us a  
13 with a rainbow of colors to appreciate those differences.  
14 There will be times -- there will be times in your life when  
15 others will make you aware of your differences, when others  
16 will say or do something that makes you feel, "Why are they  
17 looking at me? Why am I singled out? Why do I feel that this  
18 difference seems uncomfortable at this particular moment?"  
19 There will be times.

20           Maybe it will be that simple gesture or something  
21 someone says, but, my friends, don't be quick to anger. In  
22 fact, use what is said to you to make you stronger and even  
23 more proud to be an American. You see, we are all part of  
24 making this country great. Although our journey may have been  
25 different, it was also so, so, so very much alike.

1           What is an American? Well, look into the mirror.  
2 Look into the mirror and what you will discover is an American.  
3 It doesn't matter what color your skin is or what your last  
4 name may be. Americans look like me. They look like you.  
5 They look like people from all over this world. Yes, we as  
6 Americans are special because we are so different, and yet, we  
7 are so very much alike.

8           America is special, but it's not perfect. It's not  
9 perfect. It needs your help to fulfill its potential. It is  
10 special not only because of what it gives us, but because of  
11 what it asks of us. I'm sure you've heard the saying, freedom  
12 isn't free. Well, it's true. You're standing here today as  
13 the result of the many sacrifices of those who came before you.  
14 America asks not only for your allegiance, but also for your  
15 hard work in helping her reach her potential.

16           The authors of the Constitution knew this. They were  
17 activists. They knew that if America is to reach her full  
18 potential, it will depend on the efforts of everyone in this  
19 room, not just those of you that are sitting here today, but  
20 every single one of you that are in this room. The greatness  
21 that America has the potential to achieve will never be  
22 achieved unless you and I, everyone, believes that we have a  
23 role to fulfill in helping this country reach its greatness.

24           It will depend not on what you don't do, not on what  
25 you say, not on what you think, but on what you do. It will

1 depend on how fiercely we are willing to challenge what is  
2 wrong and fight for what is right. It will depend on our  
3 ability to look beyond ourselves as individuals and dedicate  
4 our efforts to the greater good and to the larger purpose. It  
5 will depend -- it will depend on how deep and abiding your  
6 desire is to see yourselves as part of this country called  
7 America.

8           We must all be activists. This country demands that  
9 you give it your best if you continue to succeed, if we want to  
10 see it succeed. America was built on a dream, a dream of  
11 democracy. That dream remains a powerful vision in a troubled  
12 world, and it continues to resonate today as it did in the  
13 past. I -- I believe -- I believe in this dream, but I also  
14 know that I have to be an active participant to keep this dream  
15 alive.

16           President Franklin Roosevelt said, "Democracy is not  
17 static -- it is not a static thing. It is an everlasting  
18 march." Well, today that march begins for each and every one  
19 of you. It is a march that will challenge you and frustrate  
20 you at times, but it is also a march that will bring you great  
21 happiness.

22           You are now an American. You may be an  
23 African-American; you may be a German-American; you may be a  
24 Mexican-American. It doesn't matter because you are now part  
25 of that beautiful, beautiful painting that is called America.

1           As you look forward to your future as an American  
2 citizen, what is your dream? What contribution do you want to  
3 make to make this country better? The dream of democracy is  
4 only real because people like you, people like you, people like  
5 you have all done something to make this dream real  
6 (indicating).

7           You fulfilled this dream because you realize the dream  
8 that you have, not only the dream to become an American, but a  
9 dream to make this country -- you fulfilled it because you  
10 realized that no matter how deep the valley, no matter how high  
11 the mountain, nothing can stop you from accomplishing your  
12 dream to become an American.

13           Congratulations to each and every one of you and  
14 welcome home. We're going to always leave the lights on for  
15 you. Thank you.

16           (Applause.)

17           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge.

18           At this time we will be presenting certificates to our  
19 new citizens. I would invite the judges.

20           We begin with James Del Puerto. We have Lawrence  
21 Boahen, Marion Kershaw, Neil Frank Humphrey, Anna Zajacova,  
22 Khama Bassili Tolo, Laura Denisse Berry.

23           We have other certificates and letters to welcome you.  
24 We have presentations by our patriotic organizations. Today we  
25 have represented the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, the

1 Colonial Dames of America, the Colonial Dames of the XVII  
2 Century, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Veterans  
3 of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary, and the Veterans of Foreign  
4 Wars 4343 Auxiliary. If you would please hand out your  
5 materials to our new citizens.

6 (Presentations by patriotic organizations.)

7 (Applause.)

8 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We are also so very pleased  
9 to have representatives from our congressional delegation. We  
10 have letters on behalf of Senator Mike Enzi, Senator John  
11 Barrasso, and Representative Liz Cheney.

12 If you would like to hand out your materials, I'm sure  
13 the new citizens would be so pleased to receive welcoming from  
14 our delegation.

15 (Presentations by congressional delegation.)

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you so much.

18 After Judge Jeffrey's moving remarks and appropriate  
19 comments about democracy as a march, we're happy to have the  
20 next song by the East High Concert Choir, When The Saints Go  
21 Marching In.

22 (When The Saints Go Marching In.)

23 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Now I'm happy to invite my  
24 colleagues to provide some welcoming remarks for our new  
25 citizens. We'll begin with Chief Bankruptcy Judge Casey

1 Parker.

2 JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal, and thank  
3 you East High School for having us. Thank you to all of us who  
4 helped the new individuals get here to their U.S. citizenship,  
5 but most importantly congratulations on becoming a U.S.  
6 citizen. Thank you for letting me part of this. It is truly  
7 an honor for me, and there are really no words that can  
8 adequately express the sacrifice that you have made or the work  
9 it has taken for you to get here today.

10 The oath that you took to defend the United States  
11 against all enemies, foreign and domestic, is an extremely  
12 powerful statement. It is also a statement that a lot of U.S.  
13 citizens themselves never get to make. You make the same oath  
14 that the President just made when he was sworn in. You made  
15 the same oath that we as judges had the privilege of making  
16 when we were sworn in or the U.S. Senators that were recently  
17 sworn in. That is the same part of the oath that a brave  
18 member of our military will make when he or she agrees to  
19 defend our country.

20 America, the land of the free, as Judge Jeffrey  
21 indicated, freedom to choose: Freedom to choose your path in  
22 life, to form and express opinions, to educate yourself, to be  
23 part of the decision-making, to practice a religion of your  
24 choosing.

25 But as you've probably been told, with freedom comes

1 responsibility. Having gone through this process, you, more  
2 than many current United States citizens, are in touch with the  
3 history of our nation, the ideologies of our founding fathers,  
4 the spirit of the United States. Use this knowledge. Continue  
5 to learn and use your knowledge and passion to make this  
6 country a better place.

7 I challenge you in this way: Pay it forward. If  
8 someone helped you to get to this point in your life, maybe in  
9 a small way or even an instrumental way, it is now your turn to  
10 be that inspiration or guiding hand for another.

11 For the students, the enthusiasm of these new citizens  
12 should be a reminder to all of us how privileged we are to be  
13 Americans. We should never take for granted the freedoms we  
14 are afforded. We should never abuse those freedoms to the  
15 detriment of another person.

16 Stealing a quote from a CNN article, a newly  
17 naturalized citizen stated, "No other country gives you the  
18 right to pursue happiness and that is a right that I have  
19 grabbed firmly with both hands." I, along with my colleagues  
20 up here, have the best seat in the house because we get to see  
21 this happiness from our new citizens. So I ask our newest  
22 citizens if you will please stand up and face our crowd so that  
23 they can see you.

24 (Applause.)

25 JUDGE PARKER: Pursue the happiness of life. I hope

1 for the people here today that this ceremony -- please be  
2 seated -- that this ceremony reminds us all that the United  
3 States was built on diversity. That diversity makes us a  
4 stronger nation. Our tolerance to allow the people the freedom  
5 to express their views, their religion, their beliefs is the  
6 underpinning of the strength of this nation, the freedoms that  
7 these citizens worked so hard to attain. If we allow our  
8 tolerance to wane, so will the strength of our nation.

9           Again, congratulations. Your dedication to this  
10 process demonstrates great things to come for all of you.

11           (Applause.)

12           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Parker.

13           Now I would invite our Chief Magistrate Judge, Judge  
14 Kelly Rankin, to make some remarks.

15           CHIEF MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge  
16 Freudenthal. What a great ceremony, with the East High Concert  
17 Choir, the remarks of Judge Jeffrey, Judge Parker, and I know  
18 there are many very good remarks to follow me. But what a  
19 great day.

20           And I want to just begin by saying welcome. The seven  
21 of you are now all American, and I congratulate each of you and  
22 your families on this very important, significant journey. And  
23 I'm sure what a long road it has been for each of you. I'm  
24 sure it has also been a struggle at times, leaving your  
25 homeland and saying good-bye to beloved family and friends,

1 travelling to this country and finding a home and a job,  
2 adjusting to a new culture, a new way of life.

3           But the good news for all of us is the best of your  
4 culture is good for us because it is the way of life. Your way  
5 of life is the best of ours, and your traditions enrich not  
6 only your family, but they enrich the United States of America.

7           Always remember that this country was founded on the  
8 diversity of many tribes, many cultures, and many countries.  
9 And we have all been blessed by the rich culture and traditions  
10 of so many people like you and those that came before you.  
11 America is a combination of the best of everyone who comes  
12 here. This great country depends on new citizens such as you  
13 to learn, and grow. Our survival depends on the values of  
14 diversity, tolerance, dignity and respect that we live by and  
15 teach each other.

16           Our very first president, George Washington,  
17 recognized the importance of immigrants to our land, not just  
18 the rich and the high-ranking newcomer, quote, ". . . but the  
19 opposed and persecuted of all nations and religions whom we  
20 shall welcome to a participation in all our rights and  
21 privileges. . .," end quote.

22           Being a United States citizen, as we heard from Judge  
23 Jeffrey and Judge Parker, means that you are free. The  
24 Constitution and laws of this country are designed to protect  
25 your freedom. You are free to think on your own, to form your

1 own opinions, and you may voice those opinions whether many  
2 people or few people agree with you. You are free to work  
3 where you want to work, to read what you want to read, to say  
4 what you want to say. You are free to believe what you want to  
5 believe.

6           There is no single American way to think or to  
7 believe. As a citizen of the United States, you are free to  
8 follow your own path, wherever it may lead you. But, with that  
9 freedom comes responsibility. The freedom of democracy comes  
10 with the responsibility to participate in the democratic  
11 process by voting, not casually or carelessly, but in a way  
12 that is thoughtful and informed. You have a responsibility to  
13 educate yourself so you can make good choices for yourself,  
14 your family, and this country that is now your country. This  
15 democracy so hard fought for only works when its people  
16 participate fully by helping to choose who governs us all and  
17 by taking that process seriously.

18           The freedom of democracy also carries a responsibility  
19 to your community and to your country. You must be willing to  
20 serve this country as you can. Use your talents by being  
21 active in your communities. Give back to your new country  
22 through civic participation and service.

23           I'm sure, as Judge Parker mentioned, all of you have  
24 someone who has helped make it possible for you to be here  
25 today: A friend, a neighbor, a family member. Maybe they are

1 even here with you today. As you celebrate your new  
2 citizenship make sure you let them know how much their help has  
3 meant to you. And perhaps a wonderful way to honor them for  
4 their service to you is to reach out a hand to someone else  
5 that may need your help. Your new country, our country, will  
6 only continue to thrive if we care about our fellow citizens as  
7 human beings.

8           Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked  
9 incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I speak  
10 for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are grateful to  
11 have you. Thank you.

12           (Applause.)

13           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Now I'll turn to District  
14 Judge Alan Johnson for his remarks.

15           JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, I can only add my thanks and  
16 appreciation to those who have made this such a special  
17 ceremony. Ronn Jeffrey, what an amazing and inspiring speech  
18 we heard this morning. Very gifted. And these are words that  
19 we need to hear.

20           LaDonna Backman and the East High Choir, inspiring  
21 songs, ending with a spiritual aspect of our lives, and how  
22 important those spiritual aspects are.

23           To the patriotic groups who have supported these  
24 citizenship meetings through the years and gatherings and have  
25 been so faithful in their determination to honor citizenship

1 and the duties and responsibilities that come with it, thank  
2 you.

3           To our new citizens, this is a magic moment that we're  
4 sharing together, a magic moment that is repeated across this  
5 nation, but, nevertheless, it is so special when you think  
6 about it and one that I'm proud to witness because it reminds  
7 me of the duties and obligations and the protection of law that  
8 is received as a result of new citizenship.

9           These citizens took an oath to an idea, that idea of  
10 freedom. That oath was not an oath to a queen or a king or  
11 some sovereignty. It was an oath to the idea represented by  
12 the laws and Constitution of the United States. This is the  
13 first nation on this earth, this planet, where the oath and the  
14 loyalty travels from an individual to an idea, an idea of  
15 freedom.

16           This ceremony serves to inform you of the struggle and  
17 commitment on the part of some of the students who are among  
18 you and the families that brought you here to our town and have  
19 come to America so that you may have the educational  
20 opportunities you're receiving here at East High School.

21           I hope that each one of you will be generous,  
22 tolerant, loving to those among you who may not yet be citizens  
23 but are partaking of the education. And I hope we take these  
24 opportunities to become acquainted with those among us who are  
25 naturalized citizens as friends, as students, as family

1 members, who bring their cultures, religious beliefs, languages  
2 to this nation. As pointed out by Judge Rankin, our nation is  
3 built on the diversity that they afford.

4 We must be mindful in this time of the refugee  
5 catastrophe that is unfolding in the world today as families  
6 and individuals seek liberty; freedom from oppression; freedom  
7 from want; freedom to express individual opinions, beliefs,  
8 religions and their cultures; freedom to be safe in their daily  
9 lives, to be warm, to be fed.

10 Each of our new citizens is indeed a member of a  
11 special group. There are approximately 13,500,000 lawful  
12 permanent residents in the United States, including students  
13 studying in America's colleges and universities, persons who  
14 have found asylum here and millions who have come seeking  
15 employment, better opportunity and who have received green  
16 cards.

17 8 million of these lawful residents are eligible to  
18 seek citizenship as each of you have done. Approximately  
19 4,500,000 persons are not presently eligible for citizenship  
20 for various reasons including the lengthy waiting period  
21 required by law. Each of us is sensitized in this day and age  
22 to the difficulties that each of these individuals have faced  
23 in arriving at this day. Each of our citizens who have taken  
24 the oath today are indeed special because they have endured the  
25 sacrifices, the waiting and the testing necessary to have made

1 their dreams come true.

2           The oath freely given today is an oath to support  
3 ideas of freedom, the Constitution, the laws of the United  
4 States. In time of war and national need the duty of the  
5 citizen from here forward is to serve the United States.

6           The status of being an American means that each  
7 citizen has a duty to support the laws that guarantee our  
8 rights, share in the duty to inform ourselves of the issues  
9 affecting our lives, our communities and our nation and to be  
10 participants in the daily life of this nation.

11           Each of you at some point will be called upon to  
12 perform service as a juror in one of our courts. We hope that  
13 you will gladly take that opportunity to join with other  
14 citizens of this great nation to offer your opinions and your  
15 thoughts as you make important decisions, the ones that we  
16 trust our citizens to make in our courts.

17           I will leave you today with these thoughts from  
18 another judge, a judge by the name of Learned Hand. What a  
19 name for a judge, Learned Hand. He was a United States  
20 District Judge at that time and spoke at a ceremony like this  
21 one. However, the ceremony was in New York City and in the  
22 midst of World War II. The naturalization ceremony was  
23 attended by a much larger audience than we have today, although  
24 this is one of the largest audiences we've had here in  
25 Cheyenne. We are so pleased to see the students of East High

1 School to be here with us and share this important magical  
2 moment with us.

3 Judge Hand spoke these words during World War II about  
4 our precious liberty. These words are as relevant today as  
5 they were during this perilous period:

6 "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it  
7 dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it. No  
8 constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.  
9 While it lies there, it needs no constitution, no law, no court  
10 to save it. And what is this liberty which must lie in the  
11 hearts of men and women? It is not the ruthless, unbridled  
12 will. It is not freedom to do as one likes. That is the  
13 denial of liberty. It leads straight to its overthrow.

14 "What, then, is the spirit of liberty? I cannot  
15 define it. I can only tell you my own take. The spirit of  
16 liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is right.  
17 The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand  
18 the minds of other men and women. The spirit of liberty is the  
19 spirit which weighs their interest alongside its own without  
20 bias. The spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow  
21 falls to earth unheeded."

22 Judge Hand's words seem to be good ones for both new  
23 and old -- not so old -- you're young citizens -- citizens by  
24 birth to consider as we go forward together. Congratulations  
25 new citizens.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Judge Johnson spoke of this  
3 is a magical moment. The magic is that we have seven new  
4 citizens in this room who have chosen America from seven  
5 different countries. Congratulations. Thank you for your  
6 choice. It is always such a special privilege to be part of  
7 our naturalization ceremonies and offering a few remarks.

8 First, as you leave this building today, to our new  
9 seven citizens, carry with you the confidence that you as  
10 American citizens are equal in rights and dignity to any other  
11 citizen you may see in this school, in your community, in  
12 Cheyenne, in New York City and Washington, D.C. You are equal  
13 in rights and dignity.

14 Your rights and dignity as well as your privileges are  
15 the same as every other citizen, no matter who they may be or  
16 how important they may seem or whether they were born here in  
17 the United States or, like you, have chosen to become American  
18 citizens. Indeed, each of us except our Native American  
19 neighbors came to this country from other lands or are  
20 descended from people who left their own countries and  
21 established new lives here.

22 We are here because our fathers, mothers,  
23 grandfathers, grandmothers journeyed here in hope of a better  
24 life or, sadly, were brought here against their will. No  
25 matter how or why their journey started, they all pursued the

1 same dreams of freedom and opportunity here and all have  
2 contributed, as you will, to the history and growth of this  
3 great country.

4           As citizens it is important to realize a country is  
5 only as good as its citizens. We have a wonderfully diverse  
6 country. We've heard about it from everyone here today. We  
7 have the opportunity to learn from you about cultures we will  
8 never experience firsthand, to learn and respect your  
9 traditions, your practices. Because the enduring truth is by  
10 respecting, protecting and defending the rights of others to  
11 enjoy their culture, practices and traditions, we protect and  
12 preserve the rights for ourselves and our loved ones.

13           Now, you may hear voices in this land saying that  
14 there's only one true American set of values or one true  
15 American religion or way to think about political and  
16 socioeconomic issues. Don't believe it. As Americans you may  
17 freely and openly believe or adhere to any religion or none at  
18 all; to any political or socioeconomic view, whether it is  
19 shared by many or just a few. Indeed, conformity of thought  
20 and belief would be contrary to the underlying principles that  
21 established this great country.

22           I'd like to turn to Felix Frankfurter. He came to  
23 this country as you did, by choice. He came from Austria in  
24 1894. When he was 12 years old, he became a naturalized  
25 citizen. He went on to sit as a Justice of the United States

1 Supreme Court. Justice Frankfurter believed that in this  
2 country the highest office is citizen.

3           You have now assumed that high office, and your  
4 office, just like my office, has duties. You have the duty to  
5 be informed, the duty to vote, to serve on a jury, and, yes, to  
6 pay taxes. You also have the duty and privilege to make this  
7 country the country you hoped to find when you chose to come  
8 here and the country you want it to be for your children and  
9 grandchildren.

10           I'd like to invite each of our new seven citizens to  
11 turn to your neighbor citizen, welcome them as a fellow citizen  
12 of the United States of America. Please do so.

13           I would also like to welcome all of you and your  
14 families as well as everybody here participating in this  
15 naturalization ceremony to join in the reception hosted in  
16 honor of our new citizens. The reception will be right up  
17 here. I have been assured it is behind the closed curtain, so  
18 come up.

19           And we're tickled Judge Johnson spoke of our patriotic  
20 organizations that join us and make this ceremony special. I'd  
21 like to officially thank the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century  
22 for hosting the reception to honor our new citizens.

23           Remember the faces you see here today, the faces on  
24 your left and the faces on the right, the faces that you see up  
25 at the reception, in the students' faces. Each of you is part

1 of the future of this great nation. Congratulations and best  
2 wishes.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Is there any other business  
5 before we recess this special session of the U.S. District  
6 Court for the District of Wyoming and this naturalization  
7 ceremony?

8 JUDGE JOHNSON: No.

9 MAGISTRATE RANKIN: No, thank you.

10 JUDGE PARKER: No.

11 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: With that we'll stand in  
12 recess subject to call.

13 Again, please join in the reception to welcome and  
14 honor our new citizens.

15 (Proceedings concluded 11:06 a.m., March 6, 2017.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JANET DAVIS, Federal Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Diplomate Reporter and Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings contained herein on the aforementioned subject on the date herein set forth, and that the foregoing pages constitute a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2017.

*Janet Davis*

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JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR, CRR  
Registered Diplomate Reporter  
Federal Certified Realtime Reporter  
Certified Realtime Reporter  
Federal Official Court Reporter