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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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

Cheyenne, Wyoming
March 11, 2013
1:36 p.m.

YAOZHI HESSLER
YAN ZHANG
FABIOLA MILAN NAVA
HUIMIN ZHU
DONALD MICHAEL WOOD
STEFAN HEINZ
PETRA THERESIA HEINZ
RAMIRO HERNANDEZ ARAUJO
RONJA DOROTHEA INGALLS
RUTH WAMBUI KIMATA
JIN HUN MIN,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Federal Courthouse

CERTIFIED COPY

Petitioners.

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

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

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: MR. MARK A. KLAASSEN
Assistant United States Attorney
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 668
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Court Reporter: MS. JULIE H. THOMAS, RMR, CRR
Official U.S. Court Reporter
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307)778-0078 CA CSR No. 9162

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography,
transcript produced by computer.

1 (Proceedings commenced 1:36 p.m.,
2 March 11, 2013.)

3 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
4 Please be seated.

5 The family of the federal court for the District of
6 Wyoming and its judicial officers extend our warm welcome to
7 all who are attending this public ceremony honoring and
8 receiving new citizens. Many in the audience are family
9 members and friends of the families represented by the
10 petitioners for citizenship. Others are here representing
11 patriotic organizations that recognize the vital importance of
12 these ceremonies that renew our common heritage as a nation of
13 immigrant citizens who have contributed to and built upon the
14 enduring principles that have allowed the United States of
15 America to prosper. For those in the audience who wish to
16 record this ceremony with videocameras, the court rules are
17 suspended. Anyone who wishes to make recordings or photograph
18 the ceremony should feel free to move about in the courtroom
19 to find the best vantage points from which to capture the
20 images you might wish to preserve. In addition, photographs
21 may be taken with family and friends as well as the judicial
22 officers in front of the flag of the United States after the
23 ceremony and before you enjoy the refreshments that will be
24 provided by the Colonial Dames of America and the Colonial
25 Dames XVII Century.

1 We are extremely pleased that Bella Voce choir from
2 East High School, under the direction of Beth Kean, will
3 perform and enhance this ceremony. Will you please stand with
4 me as the choir sings our national anthem.

5 ("Star-Spangled Banner" performed by Bella
6 Voce.)

7 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I don't think
8 I've ever heard a better performance of our national anthem.

9 Mr. Klaassen, Assistant United States Attorney for
10 the District of Wyoming, will you please take over and
11 introduce our petitioners.

12 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please
13 the Court, Magistrate Judge Rankin, Judge Freudenthal. My
14 name is Mark Klaassen, and I am here today appearing as a
15 representative of the United States Attorney's Office for the
16 District of Wyoming and on behalf of the Attorney General of
17 the United States in these proceedings. It's my privilege to
18 introduce to the Court the following individuals who appear in
19 person for a hearing on their petitions for naturalization as
20 United States citizens.

21 I am going to apologize in advance if I mispronounce
22 your names, but I am going to make the attempt here anyway.

23 Yaozhi Hessler, a native and former inhabitant of the
24 People's Republic of China.

25 Yan Zhang, a native and former inhabitant of the

1 People's Republic of China.

2 Fabiola Milan Nava, a native and former inhabitant of
3 Mexico.

4 Huimin Zhu, a native and former inhabitant of the
5 People's Republic of China.

6 Donald Michael Wood, a native and former inhabitant
7 of Canada.

8 Stefan Heinz, a native and former inhabitant of
9 Germany.

10 Petra Theresia Heinz, a native and former inhabitant
11 of Germany.

12 Ramiro Hernandez Araujo, a native and former
13 inhabitant of Mexico.

14 Ronja Dorothea Ingalls, a native and former
15 inhabitant of Germany.

16 Ruth Wambui Kimata, and native and former inhabitant
17 of Kenya.

18 Jin Hun Min, a native and former inhabitant of South
19 Korea.

20 Your Honor, each of these individuals has been
21 interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner
22 of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who
23 has completed a character and background investigation.

24 Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that each of
25 these individuals has met all requirements for naturalization

1 and is well qualified and is a desirable candidate for United
2 States citizenship.

3 As a fellow citizen, I want to welcome and
4 congratulate each of these petitioners on this very special
5 occasion. And so on the recommendation of the immigration
6 officer, it is my honor to move that all of these petitioners
7 be granted United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

8 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

9 Will our courtroom deputy please administer the oath,
10 and will the petitioners please stand in place, raise your
11 right hands, and take the oath of citizenship.

12 COURTROOM DEPUTY: I hereby declare on oath -- if
13 you'll repeat after me.

14 I hereby declare on oath ...

15 THE PETITIONERS: I hereby declare on oath ...

16 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I absolutely and
17 entirely ...

18 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I absolutely and
19 entirely ...

20 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... renounce and adjure ...

21 THE PETITIONERS: ... renounce and adjure ...

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... all allegiance and fidelity ...

23 THE PETITIONERS: ... all allegiance and fidelity ...

24 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... to any foreign prince ...

25 THE PETITIONERS: ... to any foreign prince ...

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... potentate, state or
2 sovereignty ...

3 THE PETITIONERS: ... potentate, state or
4 sovereignty ...

5 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... of whom or which I have
6 here ...

7 THE PETITIONERS: ... of whom or which I have here ...

8 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... been a subject or citizen ...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ... been a subject or citizen ...

10 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I will support and
11 defend ...

12 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will support and
13 defend ...

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... the Constitution and the
15 laws ...

16 THE PETITIONERS: ... the Constitution and the
17 laws ...

18 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... of the United States of
19 America ...

20 THE PETITIONERS: ... of the United States of
21 America ...

22 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... against all enemies foreign and
23 domestic ...

24 THE PETITIONERS: ... against all enemies, foreign and
25 domestic ...

1 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I will bear true faith ...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will bear true faith ...

3 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... and allegiance to the same ...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ... and allegiance to the same ...

5 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I will bear arms on behalf
6 of the United States ...

7 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will bear arms on behalf
8 of the United States ...

9 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... when required by law ...

10 THE PETITIONERS: ... when required by law ...

11 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I will perform
12 noncombatant service ...

13 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will perform
14 noncombatant service ...

15 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... in the Armed Forces of the
16 United States when required by law ...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ... in the Armed Forces of the
18 United States when required by law ...

19 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... that I will perform work of
20 national importance ...

21 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will perform work of
22 national importance ...

23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... under civilian direction when
24 required by law ...

25 THE PETITIONERS: ... under civilian direction when

1 required by law ...

2 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... and that I take this
3 obligation freely ...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ... and that I take this
5 obligation freely ...

6 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... without any mental
7 reservation ...

8 THE PETITIONERS: ... without any mental
9 reservation ...

10 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... or purpose of evasion ...

11 THE PETITIONERS: ... or purpose of evasion ...

12 COURTROOM DEPUTY: ... so help me God.

13 THE PETITIONERS: ... so help me God.

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you.

15 JUDGE JOHNSON: Please be seated.

16 Each have now taken the oath, rather lengthy oath, to
17 become citizens of the United States of North America. This
18 is an oath that many of us, having been born in the United
19 States, have not taken. My guess is none of these lovely
20 ladies in the choir have had to take an oath to be a United
21 States citizen, nor have I, and so far as I know neither have
22 the Judges who are before this Court. And it is a good
23 reminder for all of us of the duties and responsibilities and
24 obligations that each of us, whether we took that oath or not,
25 share with these petitioners who now, I am pleased to say,

1 have become naturalized citizens because I have granted and
2 signed the order granting the petition that has been presented
3 to this Court. So they deserve a round of applause.

4 (Applause.)

5 JUDGE JOHNSON: I would ask our courtroom deputy to
6 pass out the certificates to each of our new citizens so they
7 will have a personal and lifetime record of this ceremony.

8 (Presentation of Certificates of Naturalization.)

9 JUDGE JOHNSON: I might mention that we have two
10 special guests in the room today, which is not usual at these
11 ceremonies. And we wish to welcome and are very happy to have
12 with us from the United States Immigration Office Dana
13 Lindauer from Colorado. Mr. Lindauer, would you stand so
14 everybody can see you. Thank you for your presence here --

15 MR. LINDAUER: Thank you.

16 JUDGE JOHNSON: -- and interest in this ceremony.

17 And, also, from the United States Passport Office,
18 Alice Benyik. Miss Benyik, are you there? There you are in
19 the back. Thank you for your presence here today.

20 We have time for another musical interlude here from
21 a wonderful choir under the direction of Beth Kean from East
22 High School. And these are winners of musical competitions
23 across the state and just amazing performers, and we're so
24 proud to have you here.

25 ("Song for the Unsung Hero" performed by Bella

1 Voce.)

2 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

3 We come to an important part of this ceremony, one
4 that has been honored by a lot of hard work through the years,
5 and anyone leaving this courtroom can check the plaque that's
6 right outside the door honoring many of these members of
7 patriotic organizations who have supported in this courtroom
8 these ceremonies through the years. And I hope that all of
9 you, everyone in this courtroom, will take the time to attend
10 the tea that will be right outside here in the jury assembly
11 room immediately after this ceremony, which will be hosted by
12 the Colonial Dames of America as well as the Colonial Dames
13 XVII Century. I hope I'm reading my script correctly. I
14 might introduce them. Dorothy Torkelson, Clair Davis, Ibby
15 Davis, Tiffany Smith, Van Mellblom, and Carol Foster. So
16 enjoy, please enjoy the tea with all of us.

17 The presentations today will start with the American
18 Flag as well as the Flag Code, which will be presented by the
19 Daughters of the American Revolution. And representing that
20 organization are Judy Engelhart, Brenda Rath, Donna Weaver,
21 and Pam Imig. Ladies.

22 (Presentation of American Flag by Daughters of the
23 American Revolution.)

24 JUDGE JOHNSON: And a little booklet that was
25 prepared by the court family, it is a Star-Spangled Banner

1 booklet which gives a little bit of history of the
2 Star-Spangled Banner, will be presented by American Legion
3 Post 6 Auxiliary. Freda Warren and Linda Byrd will present
4 the Star-Spangled Banner.

5 (Presentation of Star-Spangled Banner booklet by
6 American Legion #6 Auxiliary.)

7 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. The United States
8 Constitution, the founding document for our rule of law, is
9 presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Veteran of
10 Foreign Wars organization 1881, by Hazel Johnson and Elsie
11 Gley.

12 (Presentation of United States Constitution by
13 VFW 1881 Auxiliary.)

14 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you so much. And we have the
15 Wyoming Constitution presented by another VFW organization,
16 the Veterans of Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary, represented by
17 Mary Lou Lynn.

18 (Presentation of Wyoming Constitution by
19 VFW 4343 Auxiliary.)

20 JUDGE JOHNSON: Before these petitioners leave
21 they'll need a suitcase to carry everything away.

22 Thank you. Our congressional representatives take a
23 deep interest in these ceremonies that take place here in
24 Cheyenne and also in Casper, Wyoming, and we have
25 representatives of the congressional offices who are here

1 today representing our congressional representatives.

2 From Mike Enzi, Senator Mike Enzi's office, he is
3 represented here by Martha Wilson. Miss Wilson, you have
4 something to present?

5 MS. WILSON: Yes.

6 From U.S. Senator John Barrasso, Jamie Gronski is
7 here to make presentation as well.

8 And from Congressman Cynthia Lummis, Laura
9 Weatherford from that office is here.

10 (Presentation of letters from congressional
11 offices.)

12 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. To be recognized by our
13 congressional staff is a very meaningful thing to each of our
14 petitioners, and we thank you for making those presentations
15 for them.

16 We are very honored today to have a special guest
17 speaker who will address our petitioners and the audience this
18 afternoon. Johnnie Burton herself is a naturalized citizen of
19 the United States and a refugee from and a person who was
20 dislocated through disturbance that occurred at her native
21 land. She came to this country, married, had a very
22 successful business career in the oil and gas business, was
23 elected from her district, served six years in the Wyoming
24 legislature, and then was selected by Governor Geringer to
25 serve as his director of the Department of Revenue for the

1 State of Wyoming and served in that capacity for six years
2 before receiving the call from the President of the United
3 States to serve in office, public office in Washington, D.C.
4 for five years. When she accomplished those tasks in her
5 life, she moved on to come back home, but retirement
6 immediately was not in her radar, and she served for a period
7 of time in the staff for Congressman Cynthia Lummis and I
8 believe now is taking it easy and a well-deserved rest.
9 Johnnie Burton, let me introduce Johnnie Burton to you, our
10 guest speaker.

11 MS. BURTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Good afternoon and welcome. This reminds me of the
13 day that I was in those seats in Casper, Wyoming, and went
14 through the same type of ceremony that you are going through
15 today. I know that most of you by law have been in this
16 country already for several years, some of you many years, but
17 at least a minimum of five years or three if you married an
18 American citizen. So you are somewhat familiar with our
19 country and the country that you now will call your own.
20 However, this ceremony, this day will stay in your memory
21 forever. It did for me, and it was many, many years ago.

22 As Judge Johnson mentioned, I have been very
23 fortunate. I have done a few interesting things in this
24 country, but hopefully I have contributed. This country, I
25 found, was the most generous country that I had ever been in,

1 and I've been in several countries on the way here. It is a
2 country that gives you opportunities, and this freedom of
3 opportunities is what is to be cherished. When you came here,
4 you all came from very different countries, very different
5 backgrounds, and for many reasons, but deep down the main
6 reason is that you were looking for a better life, and I hope
7 you've found it here. And your taking the step of becoming
8 American citizens tell me you found what you were looking for.

9 I remember the day that I received that certificate
10 and could call myself an American was not only a special day,
11 it was a day that was full of different emotions, some of them
12 contradictory actually.

13 The first thing is a sense of relief. You are now
14 belonging somewhere. You are now a part of something bigger
15 than you. You also won't have to go every January and
16 register your green card, which is kind of nice that you don't
17 have to do that anymore. So there is a sense of relief.

18 There is also, I would think, a great sense of
19 accomplishment. It wasn't easy to get here. It wasn't easy
20 to sit in this courtroom. You had to go through a lot. You
21 had to follow a lot of rules. And it was not very easy most
22 of the time, it wasn't always very pleasant, but you did it.
23 You have reached your goal, and that is fantastic. And I can
24 promise you that if you give it all you've got, this country
25 will give it back. Actually, this country has already given

1 it back. It gave you the most extraordinary gift a country
2 can give, and that is citizenship.

3 On the other hand, it's a hard decision to make. I
4 know people in this country who have been here with a green
5 card for 20-plus years. They don't want the citizenship.
6 They don't want to abandon the ties, emotional ties, they have
7 with their country and the legal ties that they have with
8 their country of origin. So when you make -- when you take
9 the step of becoming a citizen, you break that tie to some
10 extent. Inside of you, you are still the person who was born
11 in a different country. You still have a different culture.
12 Don't abandon that. Keep that. Keep it inside you. Share it
13 with your friends, with your family, with your children. They
14 will be richer for it. But also adopt the culture of this
15 country, and then you become a very complex individual, and
16 you can share this with everybody, and that is a precious,
17 precious gift.

18 Cherish your citizenship in this country. I wish you
19 the best, and I will encourage you to earn that citizenship by
20 contributing as much as you can, within your capabilities, to
21 the community in which you live, to the state in which you
22 live, to the country in which you live. As the Judge
23 mentioned, I've been very fortunate. I was able to get into
24 business, but mostly I paid back, I feel like I paid back the
25 gift of citizenship by contributing to the society in which I

1 lived, by running for school board, by being in the
2 legislature, by serving in administrations of the state and
3 the federal administration. And I just think that having been
4 able to do that here is something extraordinary because in
5 many countries you don't have that kind of freedom, that kind
6 of opportunity. Take advantage of it. Take advantage of it.
7 The citizens of this country are extremely generous, they are
8 good people, and if I'm here today talking to you it is
9 because along the way I found wonderful people that helped me,
10 and I hope you do, too, and I'm sure you already have.

11 So I wish you the best, and I congratulate you for a
12 decision that was momentous, difficult, and yet full of joy.
13 Have a good time in this country. You will.

14 (Applause.)

15 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Burton. Those are
16 very inspiring and wise words.

17 The Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" was at an earlier
18 time considered to be the national motto of the United States.
19 However, in 1956 the United States Congress passed a
20 resolution that adopted the phrase "In God We Trust" as the
21 official motto. "E Pluribus Unum" means "out of many, one" or
22 simply "one from many." Originally "E Pluribus Unum" was
23 thought to mean that one nation arose from the many original
24 colonies or states that formed the Union. However, today the
25 more powerful meaning suggests that out of many peoples,

1 races, religions, and ancestries has emerged a nation, a
2 multicultural nation. Today more than two-fifths -- I'm
3 sorry -- more than one-fifth of the population of the United
4 States is composed of immigrants and their children. These
5 people did not abandon their culture, their race, their
6 ethnicity, nor their religion when they chose to immigrate to
7 this nation. With modern communication and devices such as
8 Skype, FaceTime, YouTube, and other social media it is an easy
9 matter for the immigrant to remain in touch with family and
10 friends in their countries of origin. While the idea of
11 giving up any unique identifier connected to an immigrant's
12 place of origin to become an American has faded with time and
13 experience, it has never been a requirement that a new citizen
14 give up or relinquish their culture, ethnicity, or religion to
15 be an American.

16 So what does it mean to be an American? There are
17 many opinions about that single question. It is complex. The
18 propositions that usually come to mind are those of the
19 nation's founders which they believed would create a new kind
20 of society, providing opportunity and freedom. The
21 propositions are that all men and women are created equal,
22 that inheritance status should play no role in the nation's
23 life, that the law should treat all citizens alike, that
24 government be designed in a manner that prevents the majority
25 from tyrannizing the minority. These are large concepts that

1 defy easy translation to daily life and work. However,
2 Americans enjoy and participate in the democracy by voting,
3 volunteering, and voicing opinions. They enjoy a nation that
4 lives under and enforces the rules of law, giving
5 predictability in daily life. And Americans are and should be
6 conscious of the language used in public that is tolerant and
7 accepting of others.

8 These are the shared ideals that hold us together as
9 Americans while we also celebrate our unique family heritage.
10 Tolerance, acceptance, democracy, meritocracy. These comprise
11 our national myth. "E Pluribus Unum," "out of many, one."
12 Let us share the ideals of our nation and our lives together
13 and make room for those features that make each unique and
14 special. Congratulations on your new status as fellow
15 Americans, and best wishes for your lives ahead.

16 Our Chief Judge in this District is Nancy Freudenthal
17 on my left here.

18 Judge Freudenthal, Chief, your remarks.

19 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

20 I join in Judge Johnson's congratulations on your new
21 citizenship. As Mrs. Burton commented, and she's just such a
22 credit to Wyoming -- I'm so pleased and proud that you are
23 here today to share your recollections and your advice to the
24 new citizens -- but we all realize how difficult it may feel
25 to renounce allegiance to your foreign state or sovereign.

1 It's important, though, to appreciate that what you're
2 renouncing is allegiance to a sovereign; you're not renouncing
3 the devotion that you carry in your heart for the people and
4 the country of your birth. I would suggest that you preserve
5 that always and be proud of your prior citizenship.

6 I was impressed by how well you've mastered the
7 English language. I'm sitting close enough that I could hear
8 the oath. It's always hard to repeat any words, and that oath
9 is a long oath to repeat. Congratulations on your work for
10 those of you who came to America with English as a second
11 language. But again, cherish the culture, the language, and
12 the heritage of your birth. You bless us by that history. I
13 also want to give you some advice.

14 You may hear voices in this land saying that there is
15 only one true American religion. Do not believe it. As an
16 American, you're privileged and free and open to be a
17 Christian, a Jew, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim, or you may
18 adhere to any other religion or no religion at all.

19 You also may hear voices in this land saying that
20 there's only one true American way to think. Again, don't
21 believe those voices. As an American, you may freely and
22 openly adhere to political, economic, and social views on the
23 right, on the left, or anywhere in between.

24 And you may hear voices saying that there's only one
25 true American set of values. Again, that's not true. As an

1 American, you may openly hold beliefs and values that differ
2 greatly from those of your neighbors. Even if your views and
3 beliefs are only shared by a few, you're entitled to those
4 views and beliefs. So there's, just as Judge Johnson was
5 saying, there's no single American, there's no single American
6 way to think or to believe. Indeed, conformity of thought or
7 belief is contrary to the underlying principles upon which
8 this great country was founded.

9 I always like to talk about Felix Frankfurter who
10 came to this country from Austria in 1894. When he was 12
11 years old, he became a naturalized citizen. He grew up and
12 became a Justice on the United States Supreme Court, the
13 highest court of the land. Justice Frankfurter was quoted
14 often as saying, "In this country the highest office is the
15 office of citizen." You, each of you, have now assumed the
16 highest office in this land. This office has duties. As
17 Mrs. Burton advised, it has the duty to consider giving back
18 to the country through service and stewardship. You have the
19 duty to be informed, the duty to participate in the political
20 process through exercising your right to vote. You have the
21 duty to serve on a jury if called, and I'd be privileged to
22 see any one of you called to sit on a jury in this courtroom.
23 And, yes, you have the duty to pay taxes, as we approach that
24 time of the year. But mainly you have the duty to make the
25 United States the country that you hoped to find when you got

1 here and the country that you want it to be.

2 So welcome to your new role and your new office, high
3 office of citizen, with all of its rights and duties, and
4 thank you for enriching our country.

5 JUDGE JOHNSON: I'm pleased to introduce to you now
6 the judicial officer who is on my right, Kelly Rankin, who is
7 the Chief Magistrate Judge for the District of Wyoming. And
8 he handles issues involving crimes that occur in this District
9 and people who appear for those crimes, as well as the
10 misdemeanors that occur on federal reservations, and also
11 helps supervise the flow of civil litigation. I mention that
12 because not everyone knows what the magistrate judge does, and
13 more of us need to know the importance of that position.

14 Chief Judge Rankin.

15 JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

16 Welcome. You are all now Americans. Congratulations
17 to each of you. It's a proud day for each of you and your
18 families that are here to celebrate this very, very important
19 day.

20 As Judge Johnson and Chief Judge Freudenthal
21 mentioned a moment ago, what does it really mean to be an
22 American? Well, of course, it means you get now to vote, you
23 get now to serve on a jury, but there are other meanings that
24 come with your citizenship today.

25 It also means that you are free. You are free as an

1 American. Abraham Lincoln said, "Freedom is not the right to
2 do what we want, but what we ought. Let us have faith that
3 right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to
4 do our duty as we understand it."

5 And even more than freedom, as President Theodore
6 Roosevelt once said, "Americanism is a question of principles,
7 of idealism, of character. It is not a matter of birthplace
8 or creed or line of descent." And I would only add that this
9 country's power lies in its citizens' individual uniqueness
10 and in their unity.

11 You are doing more here today, quite frankly, than
12 completing a legal process. You are making a lifelong promise
13 to uphold the laws and the values that make America what it
14 is. That promise comes with great privileges of American
15 citizenship, and it also comes with great responsibilities.
16 New employment and leadership doors are being opened wide to
17 you today, and I would encourage you to explore what lies
18 behind each of those doors. And there's no doubt that all of
19 your communities have much to gain from you in the years to
20 come.

21 Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked,
22 I know, incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I
23 speak for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are
24 grateful to have you. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 JUDGE JOHNSON: Our colleague Judge Clarence Brimmer,
2 who is up on the wall there, apologizes that he cannot be with
3 you today. His thoughts are certainly with you.
4 Unfortunately, he's having to spend some time in the hospital
5 and recover from a sudden illness that took him away from us
6 today.

7 Again, I want everyone to feel free to attend the tea
8 that has been prepared for us by the Colonial Dames
9 organizations.

10 I want again to thank the lovely students from East
11 High School who have so beautifully sung for us this morning
12 under the direction of Beth Kean. We are so grateful for the
13 way that you have enhanced this ceremony and for the enjoyment
14 of all of us and brought an emotional tug to the ceremony as
15 well as some beautiful music.

16 And not in any way to minimize the devotion of the
17 patriotic organizations represented here. Thank you for all
18 you do and have done for these ceremonies to make them
19 meaningful to the petitioners and their families and important
20 in their lives.

21 I thank the congressional delegation for their
22 representatives.

23 And especially we thank our speaker, Mrs. Burton.
24 The insights that you provide as someone who has experienced
25 the process, who understands the emotional feelings that

1 continue to exist and never go away for a lifetime on both
2 sides of the ocean, we thank you for providing something that
3 none of us can truly understand as well as you and these
4 petitioners here today. Thank you.

5 With that, new citizens and all who are citizens, let
6 us stand and pledge allegiance to our flag.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

8 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for
9 your presence here. That concludes the ceremony.

10 (Proceedings concluded 2:26 p.m.,
11 March 11, 2013.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JULIE H. THOMAS, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Merit Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the 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 19th day of March, 2013.

/s/ Julie H. Thomas

JULIE H. THOMAS
Official Court Reporter
Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter
CA CSR No. 9162