

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 12, 2018  
1:30 p.m.  
Prairie Wind Elementary  
School

GIULIA VERNATI, VIKTORIA PIKUS,  
LIPING WANG, KATIE DONGMEI LI OAKEY,  
EWA LINDA FALK,

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:

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
produced with computer.

(Proceedings commenced 1:30 p.m., March 12, 2018.)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

Well, as the first order of business we will waive the prohibition against cameras associated with court proceedings. We're pleased to have anyone that wishes to take photos -- family, friends, the participants from the school -- feel free to take photographs.

Welcome to all of you. And I particularly am pleased to be here at Prairie Wind Elementary School where my granddaughter is a student. Albany, why don't you stand and wave. She's in second grade, dyed her hair green in honor of Saint Patrick's Day, I assume. She's joined by her father, my son, Don. Good to have you here, too.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: I would like to thank the principal and staff of Prairie Wind for extending a warm welcome to us here for this naturalization ceremony. Thank you for allowing the students to participate and break from their classes as well. Thank you to the teachers who are assisting in that.

We're tickled to be here. It is always one of the most enjoyable ceremonies that we perform in federal court, the naturalization of our new citizens.

With that, Mr. Martin, maybe I will call upon you for the roll call of citizens to be naturalized, along with the motion.

MR. MARTIN: Good afternoon, Judge. Thank you. I'm here today as a representative of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Wyoming, and as proxy to the Attorney General of the United States.

It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce the Court to the following individuals who appear in person for a hearing on their petitions for naturalization as United States citizens: From left to right we have Giulia Vernati, native and former inhabitant of Canada; Viktoria Pikus, native and former inhabitant of Israel; Liping Wang, native and former inhabitant of the Republic of China; Dongmei Li, native and former inhabitant of also the Republic of China; and Linda Falk, native and former inhabitant of Sweden.

Your Honor, each one of these individuals has been interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who has also completed their background and investigation for character.

The Immigration Services indicates that each of these individuals has met all requirements for naturalization and are each well qualified candidates for United States citizenship.

At this time, Your Honor, it is my distinct honor to move that each one of these petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon taking of the oath.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

Before I administer the oath, let me make a few introductions. To my right is District Court Judge Alan Johnson. He joins me as one of the -- the two district judges here in the Cheyenne courthouse.

To my immediate left is our Chief Bankruptcy Judge Casey Parker, and to her left is our Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly Rankin. And I'd invite all of the judges to join me in standing to administer the oath.

If you wish to follow along with the oath, it is printed on the back cover of your program.

So at this time I'd ask the citizens to please rise and raise your right hand.

Please repeat after me: I, state your name, hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely, renounce and abjure, all allegiance and fidelity, to any foreign prince or potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which, I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend, the Constitution of the United States and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States, when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civil direction when I am required by law; and that I take this obligation freely,

without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

Congratulations. Let's applaud our new citizens.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: And now we're pleased to have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Prairie Wind Student Council Officers Melia Samson and Owen Black. If you'd please step forward to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. I'd ask the entire room to stand.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

THE COURT: Thank you very much. Thank you for your service on the council.

While we rise, let's listen to the Star-Spangled Banner which is performed by the Prairie Wind Elementary fifth grade choir under the direction of Carisa Thomas and assisted by Melissa Henrich.

(Star-Spangled Banner performed.)

(President's message presented by video.)

THE COURT: At this time I'm pleased to introduce our guest speaker, Senator Stephan Pappas. He was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and serves here as one of our state senators. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of New Mexico and his Bachelor of Architecture from Arizona State University.

As a licensed architect and principal with a number of

credentials, he has successfully completed a wide range of projects, and notably, he is the principal in charge and architect of record for the new Carey Junior High School.

He has a number of other credits to his record, including service in the Wyoming Air National Guard, being a longtime supporter of the Guard and Reserve, as well as the Air Force Association.

He's involved in our community through the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Wyoming.

Let's welcome Stephan Pappas. Senator Pappas, thank you.

(Applause.)

SENATOR PAPPAS: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. Thank you for allowing me to be here today on such a great occasion.

First of all, I want to let you know what an honor it is for me to be here today to witness such an important occasion in the history of the United States, as every naturalization ceremony is, and an equally important occasion to you and to your families, to you, our newest U.S. citizens. I congratulate you for your diligent efforts in seeking citizenship and join the many others here today in welcoming you as fellow citizens of our great country, United States of America.

I, too, am a proud descendent of immigrants. My four Greek grandparents descended -- excuse me -- emigrated to the

United States between 1907 and 1927. There are many reasons why people from all over the globe seek to emigrate to the United States. Some do so to escape political or religious opposition, oppression. Some are looking for better education opportunities.

For my family, poverty generated the need to find a better life. Those were desperate times in Greece and there was great promise in America. The goal of both my grandparents -- both my grandfathers was to go wherever the work was in order to make money to send home to the family to make a better life for the family back home.

Emigration was not their original intent. They had always planned to return to their homeland once their economic situation had stabilized, but, in fact, both emigrated from Greece twice. Having gone back to Greece after their first time here, they quickly realized the opportunities and the life that was afforded in the United States. It just was not available back home. So with new brides, they returned to the U.S. and all eventually became American citizens and grew deep roots here in their new home.

That is the same story told by countless Americans. That is the strength of our great nation. Across the world many democracies have traditionally defined themselves by shared blood or a common creed. Not so in America. Citizenship in America is inclusive, and while not perfect, as

seen by the acts of terrorism we see, racism, discrimination, it is the value of equality that is important to us for Americans. It is one of our most cherished values.

I am a firm believer in the multi-ethnic democracy that our country is built on. I still think this country defines itself by a set of political values, not a particular ethnic lineage or religious ideology. To naturalize, new citizens as yourself do not have to prove you're descended from Americans or that you share religious beliefs of the majority. You have but to embrace the flag and the republic which it stands for.

The history of my roots which my father has painstakingly recorded portrays the story of hard-working immigrants devoted to family and religion while never forgetting their culture and their ethnic heritage. They and my parents have instilled those important values in me, and I am proud to be an American of Greek descent and have passed on that importance of that heritage to my children. I charge you to do the same, be proud to be an American but remember and be proud of your heritage as well.

There can be no denying that the challenges that await defenders of our multi-ethnic democracy are immense, and, while fragile, is key to our democracy, in my opinion. And while imperfect, I still believe this democracy is more likely to be realized in the United States than anywhere else in the world,

and its failure on these shores would bode very, very badly.

Now, as citizens I charge you to join me and the rest of the citizenry of this great nation to work hard to ensure our multi-ethnic democracy works well as our fathers intended. As it states in the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

I will close with a quote from Charles Handy who said, "Citizenship is a chance to make a difference in the place where you belong." You now have that chance. From this moment on you are full-fledged members. We expect you to take full ownership. Do what you can to forge a better future for what is now our common home. Thank you. Congratulations. God bless, God bless America.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Well, we have a number of presentations for our new citizens, beginning with the certificates that are the tangible evidence of their new citizenship. I would ask the Judges to join me in a row in front of the table to shake hands and congratulate the new citizens.

(Presentation of certificates.)

THE COURT: We have a unique presentation next for our citizens. We had a student essay and a poem message which were

competitive, and the decisions were announced just today so that I could announce the individuals who would be involved in reading the essay and the poem.

We would like to hear from Luke Hurst and Trinity Facemire.

MR. HURST: There are so many reasons I'm proud to be an American citizen. A few that stand out to me are nature, wildlife, diversity and natural rights.

I think that the natural beauty in America is spectacular. We have beautiful mountains, trees, waterfalls and much more. I personally love to go hiking, fishing, hunting and camping very often. I love seeing the beautiful scenery art.

Here in America you can choose where you want to live. You can live by the beach, high in the mountains, down in the swamps or even out in the prairie.

Another reason I love America is the wildlife. I personally love reptiles, especially snakes. Animals are everywhere in the USA, and they are so cool to see in the wild. There are exactly 21,715 different animal species here in America. Here in Wyoming we enjoy lots of unique animals including bison, pronghorn, prairie dogs, fox, elk and jackrabbits.

My second-to-last reason why America is the best country in the world is diversity. America from the very

beginning was made up of all kinds of people. We have Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Italian Americans and, of course, Native Americans. We are all here because we want to be free. No matter where you come from, we all want to be part of the American dream.

Finally, the last reason why I'm proud to be an American citizen is we have natural rights. This year my classmates and I have been learning about the Bill of Rights. The ten amendments in the Bill of Rights are just the beginning of what we enjoy here in America. The right -- the right -- freedom to own weapons, the freedom of religion and the right to a fair trial are some of the most important amendments in the Bill of Rights.

For you who have worked incredibly hard to become an American citizen, part of the greatest nation in the world, we, Prairie Wind Elementary, give you a warm welcome. You have traveled from Canada, Israel, China and Sweden to be part of our huge American family.

(Applause.)

MS. FACEMIRE: I am proud to live in the USA, the home of the brave and the free. I would pick the USA over any country any day. America is for me.

I cannot pick my favorite thing because everything is wonderful. Everything from the Statue of Liberty to Disneyland to the Rocky Mountains, this is my home. It is my land. I am

happy that I can share this land with you. If I can be an American citizen then you deserve to be one, too.

Congratulations. I hope you never leave because, just so you know, this land is for you and me.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Thank you, Luke and Trinity, for the message through the essay as well as the welcome poem. Very well done.

Next we have a sixth grade student from Prairie Wind who will be presenting postcards to our new citizens. I welcome Kristin Huffman to come down for that presentation.

MS. HUFFMAN: The Land of Liberty: I love my country's pine-clad hills, her thousands bright and gushings, her sunshine and her storms, her roughened rocks that rear their hoary heads high in the air in wild, fantastic forms. I love her forests, dark and low, for there the wild birds' merry trills I hear from morn to night. And there are lovelier flowers and weeds than ever in the eastern lands were seen in varied colors bright. Her forest and her valleys fair, her flowers that scent the morning air, all have their charms for me.

But more I love my country's name, those words that echo just the same, the land of liberty.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Thank you, Kristin, for the welcome

postcard. That was lovely.

Now, after those special presentations we're always pleased to be joined by our patriotic organizations. We have the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, the Colonial Dames of America, the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary.

They will be presenting flags, the Constitution, the Flag Code, a number of documents that should assist our new citizens in understanding the culture and traditions of our great country.

So I would invite representatives of those patriotic organizations to make their presentations to the new citizens.

(Presentation of patriotic organizations.)

THE COURT: Thank you very much. And as a custom our congressional delegation typically writes letters welcoming our new citizens. We have representatives of Senator Mike Enzi, Senator John Barrasso and Representative Liz Cheney here to distribute letters. Please step forward. Thank you.

Thank you. Next we're blessed by another performance by the Prairie Wind Elementary fifth grade choir under the direction of Carisa Thomas and assisted by Melissa Henrich, Wild Blue Yonder.

(Wild Blue Yonder. )

THE COURT: And we do have postcards to be presented

by students from Prairie Wind Elementary, so if you four students would please step forward to pass out your welcome postcards, thank you very much.

Thank you very much. I know those postcards will be cherished by the new citizens as a nice memento of their time here at Prairie Wind as well as the ceremony itself.

Thank you to the choir and the choir leaders for the presentation of Wild Blue Yonder. I suspect our guest speaker was particularly pleased with that selection, given his support for the Air Force through the Air Force Association.

At this time I'd invite my fellow judges to welcome the new citizens with some remarks. We will start with Judge Alan Johnson.

JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Chief Freudenthal. I feel pleased and honored to be at Prairie Wind Elementary School today, sharing this time, to witness this important naturalization ceremony. I want to thank the women of the patriotic organizations that have supported these ceremonies through the years. So grateful for their presence always and their devotion to the importance of naturalization to make this country great and make this country grow.

It is also very fitting that we have five new women citizens of the United States seated before us today. We should all be so very proud that they're here in this special year at this special time to celebrate their achievements.

This is a special occasion for the newest citizens and the Judges of the United States District Court as we celebrate together with Prairie Wind Elementary a very important event that recognizes the patience, the dedication, the education and the effort that has resulted in each new citizen having reached their goal in becoming citizens of the United States of America.

The Judges were pleased to meet the fifth grade Prairie Wind students a year ago. We met the sixth grade Prairie Wind students a year ago when they came to visit our court. And we thank Deputy Marshal Goodman, I think, who made those arrangements to bring this class of fifth graders to see us where they learned about the federal judicial system.

Many citizens do not know that there are courts in both the state and in the federal levels of government. The fifth graders learned what happens in the courtroom and what roles or jobs are performed by different people when court is in session. I hope we will see some of the fifth graders when they grow up as lawyers, court clerks, court reporters, probation officers, United States Deputy Marshals and judges.

I wish to thank Magistrate Judge Rankin for his excellent presentation and -- that day and organization. We hope that Prairie Wind will come again to visit the United States District Court.

Last Saturday I was very lucky when a friend invited

my daughter and I to attend the Broadway hit musical Hamilton that was being performed in Denver, Colorado. Those tickets are kind of hard to get. My friend had extra tickets and everyone was excited to attend because all of the words of the music is performed in hip hop. I bet those fifth graders know what hip hop is more than I do.

The play tells the story of the founding father of our nation, Alexander Hamilton, who was born on a small island in the British West Indies in the year 1757. He was abandoned by his father, and when he was 12 years old he was orphaned when his mother died of a serious illness.

Hamilton's story is worth remembering today because he arrived in New England, in New York City, because he was such a bright boy and someone sponsored him and his trip. By age 14 out on the islands he was already running a business. He was very smart and very ambitious.

And before long, the Revolutionary War started. He was very eager to be a participant and be a part of that war and bringing it to a successful conclusion. His hard work and skill were recognized by no less a person than General George Washington, the father of our country. Hamilton served as Washington's aide throughout the war and ended up at the Battle of Yorktown, successfully leading troops.

After the war, Hamilton became a lawyer, at least he taught himself the law at age 25 years and served in the

Continental Congress; later became an important figure in creating the United States government that serves the people of the United States today.

He was the one that really organized the financial end of our government so that each state couldn't issue their own money. We all have one dollar and it means the same wherever we go in the United States, and we can thank Hamilton for fighting for that, as well as many other things.

The founding documents that are so important called the Federalist Papers which were essays were written trying to persuade the states to become part of our union. Over 50 percent of those documents were written by Hamilton himself and by James Madison.

People like Alexander Hamilton have come to the United States from foreign places and have and still today distinguish themselves and contribute to the growth and success of the United States in important ways in government, in business, in education, labor, in medicine, the law, in the home and in all other areas of endeavor.

My family has benefited from the process that has brought new citizens here today. Last July my daughter's husband, who is the father of two very much loved grandsons, too took the oath of citizenship and proudly received his certificate of citizenship from Chief Judge Freudenthal. My son-in-law came to the United States from his home city in

southeast India to study and to work. For him citizenship was a dream realized.

I know that the children of the newest citizens and their grandchildren will always be thankful to each new citizen for their gift of citizenship.

We recognize the courage and determination that has been necessary starting over in a new country. You have experienced the struggle to reach this day and have been patient and persistent as you learned about the government of the United States, its history, its culture, and the languages that you hear on the streets of this nation.

As you enter upon the journey of your lives and the opportunities that may come your way, make the most of those opportunities. Make things better by being participating citizens, by being a good neighbor, by being a loving family member and always treating fellows fairly and with consideration.

Remember what it was that caused you to take this journey, what made you want to become a citizen, what made you want to be an American and help make an even better America for you, for me, and for future generations. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Well, let me add my voice in welcoming and congratulating each of you as newly naturalized citizens. It is always such a privilege to be involved in the naturalization

ceremonies.

I would like each of you as you leave this ceremony and on a daily basis to carry with you the confidence that you are now an American citizen, equal in the rights and dignity to any other citizen you may see in this school, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in Washington, D.C., or in any part of this country.

Citizenship brings these rights and privileges, again equally, no matter who the person is, how important that person may seem, or whether they were born here in the United States, or, like you, have chosen the United States as your home. Indeed, each of us, as Senator Pappas remarked, either came to this country or are descended from people who left their own countries and established new lives here.

I should say each of us, with the exception of our Native American neighbors, came here or are descendents of people who chose to live here. We are here because our fathers, our mothers, our grandmothers or grandfathers or earlier descendents journeyed here in the hope of a better life, or sadly for some, were brought here against their will.

But no matter how or why their journeys started, they all pursued the same dreams of freedom and opportunity, equal rights and dignity, and they have all, as you will, contribute to the history and growth of this country.

It is important to realize that our country is only as good as its citizens. And as citizens of this diverse nation,

we have the opportunity to learn from you and others about other cultures, other ways of doing things, ways that enrich our natural and diverse culture by respecting and learning about the traditions and practices of our fellow Americans.

The enduring truth is that by respecting, protecting and defending the rights of others, we protect and preserve the rights for ourselves and for our loved ones.

We should recall that Felix Frankfurter came to this country from Austria in 1894. When he was 12 years old, he became a naturalized citizen. He went on to become a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice Frankfurter believed that in this country the highest office is citizen.

You each have assumed that high office, the office of citizen, and like that office, or my office, offices have duties. You have the duty to be informed. You have the duty to participate in the political process. You have the duty to vote, to serve on a jury when called and, yes, to pay taxes. You also have a duty to work to make this great country the country that you hoped to find and that you want it to be.

Remember the faces you see here today, the faces to your right, left, around you, the faces of the students who made the presentations and the students in the choir and the teachers. Each of you along with each of them are part of building the future of this great country. Congratulations and best wishes.

(Applause.)

JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. And thank you to Prairie Wind Elementary School for having us here today, to the presenters and the choir. That was all very impressive.

Very few immigrants really have the drive and dedication it takes to get to the point where they can stand before us today and take this oath. But similarly, very few people have the opportunity to actually witness this type of event. So I do thank the staff for allowing the students to be here and see what an amazing thing that these people have achieved.

I, too, have family here, my nephew, Dayton Griffith, but I won't make him stand up. I also want to thank everybody that helped support get these new citizens here. Without you, even with their drive and dedication, it wouldn't have been possible. But most importantly, congratulations to each of you on becoming a U.S. citizen, and thank you for letting me be part of it.

The first few ceremonies that I got to do surprised me because I would look out at our new citizens and they didn't look happy. And I would wonder to myself, why is that? This should be, you know, a big, momentous event. But I realized after talking to our new citizens that they weren't unhappy. They were overwhelmed because they did not expect to walk into

a ceremony like this with a number of people here to support and welcome them.

And it shows you how great it is not only becoming a citizen of the United States, but to do it in Wyoming where everybody in this room is excited for your accomplishment and wants to welcome you to being a new citizen. And for me personally, I very much appreciate being a part of this.

America is the land of the free: The freedom to choose your path in life, to form and express opinions, to educate yourselves, to be part of the decision-making, to practice your religion of your choosing.

But as you have probably heard, with freedom comes responsibility. It is easy to take for granted the opportunities that we have here in the United States. But it is our job and now your job to make sure we have a better place to live. You have already shown your commitment to this by becoming a United States citizen, a process that requires dedication and tenacity.

But don't stop there. Take your commitment, your drive, your pride and make us better. You had to study and learn America's history and our way of life. But you now get to take your way of life, your culture, your history, and you get to enhance all of our lives.

It seems every day we read something in the paper or hear something on the news that is troubling, a senseless act

of violence. So I challenge not only our new citizens, but I challenge the students that are here today, you all are here witnessing something great today and you should leave here today feeling a better person for it.

So I want all of you to commit to every day making sure you are part of something good. And that may mean that you have to make that be something good. We want all of the good stuff that all you students are going to do and our new citizens are going to do with their friends and family support and drown out all the bad stuff we have out there. We want to show our new citizens what a great choice they made in becoming United States citizens.

Congratulations. Your dedication in this process shows many great things to come for all of you.

(Applause.)

JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge Freudenthal.

I want to echo our appreciation, my appreciation for Prairie Wind, the students that we got to see last week. It is becoming a habit, I think the fifth grade class last week. But thank you also to the teachers and faculty and all of the participants that make this happen.

Well, of course we're here for the five new citizens, five new Americans, five new neighbors. And I want to welcome them and congratulate each of you, as everyone has. We recognize what a long road that it must be for each of you and

your families to get to this day. And I'm sure it has also been a struggle at times, not an easy path perhaps, leaving your homeland, saying good-bye to beloved family and friends, traveling to your new country, finding a job and adjusting to a new culture, a new way of life.

But the good news for all of us is the best of your culture and way of life is the best of ours, and your traditions enrich not only your family but they also enrich the United States of America. Always remember that this country was founded on the diversity of many tribes and cultures and countries, and we have been blessed by those rich traditions and cultures of so many people like you, those people that came before you.

America is a combination of the best of everyone who comes here. This great country depends on new citizens like yourselves, so that we can learn and grow with you. Our survival depends not on the values of diversity, but also on tolerance, dignity and respect that we all live by and teach each other.

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

Being a United States citizen, as you've heard many

times, means that you are free. The Constitution and laws of the United States are designed to protect your freedom. You are free to think on your own and to form your own opinions, and you may voice those opinions whether many people or few people agree with you. You are free to work where you want to work, to read what you want to read, to say what you want to say.

And you are free to believe what you want to believe. There is no single American way to think or believe. As a citizen of the United States, you are free to follow your own path, wherever that may lead you.

But with that freedom comes responsibility. The freedom of democracy comes with the responsibility to participate in the democratic process by voting, not casually or carelessly, but in a way that is thoughtful and informed. You have a responsibility to educate yourself so you can make good choices for yourself, your family and this country that is now your country. This democracy, so hard fought for, only works when its people participate fully by helping to choose who will govern us all and by taking that process seriously.

The freedom of democracy also carries a responsibility to your community and to your country. You must be willing to serve this country as best you can. Use your talents. Be active in your communities. Give back to your country through civic participation and service.

And I'm sure you all come today having received a helping hand from a neighbor, a teacher, perhaps another family member, and maybe they are here today celebrating this important moment with you. But as you do so, perhaps a wonderful way to honor them is to acknowledge their help and reach out to someone else that may need your help. Your country, our country, will only continue to thrive if we care about our fellow neighbors and our fellow citizens.

Again, congratulations and welcome. I know you have worked incredibly hard to earn your citizenship. And I know that I speak for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say that we are grateful to have you.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Well, we typically have refreshments, but the cake or the refreshments were waylaid and maybe some other group is enjoying them. I'm not exactly sure what happened with that.

But I do want to again thank Principal Weigel, the staff and teachers and students of Prairie Wind Elementary for hosting us and providing us and our new citizens such a warm welcome.

And to end on a positive note, let's again join in a round of applause of welcome and congratulations.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: With that we will stand in recess until

call.

(Proceedings concluded 2:36 p.m., March 12, 2018.)

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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, Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, and 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 3rd day of April, 2018.

*Janet Davis*

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JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR, CRR  
Federal Official Court Reporter