

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

---

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

March 16, 2015  
1:30 p.m.

Nomundari McCaughan  
Luz Martinez  
Charles Ofuyo  
Killian Muli  
Sansanee Eckman  
Niru Pokharel  
Arsenio Frausto  
Luzviminda Hofer,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney  
Federal Courthouse  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Petitioners.

---

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

APPEARANCES:

For the United States: MARK A. KLAASSEN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 4000  
P.O. Box 668  
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0668

Court Reporter: MRS. JANET DAVIS  
Registered Diplomate Reporter  
Federal Certified Realtime Reporter  
Federal Official Court Reporter  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
(307) 635-3884

Proceedings recorded by digital stenography; transcript  
produced with computer-aided transcription.

1 (Proceedings commenced 1:30 p.m., March 16, 2015.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Good afternoon and welcome,  
3 everyone. It is always a joy to have a full courtroom for a  
4 positive reason. That often doesn't happen here in federal  
5 court. We're here for the naturalization ceremony.

6 It is really special to see so many grade school  
7 students here as a courtesy of their teachers and with the  
8 support of Kelly, I guess, who kind of coordinated the grade  
9 schools' attending, so that's particularly special. So thank  
10 you for taking time out of your regular curriculum to be here  
11 in federal court.

12 With that, I would ask that the roll call of citizens  
13 to be naturalized be read.

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Nomundari McCaughan.

15 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: If you would like to just  
16 answer orally for the record, that would be great, here or yes,  
17 whatever you're comfortable with.

18 PETITIONER MCCAUGHAN: Yes.

19 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Luz Martinez.

20 PETITIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

21 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Charles Ofuyo.

22 PETITIONER OFUYO: Yes.

23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Killian Muli.

24 PETITIONER MULI: Yes.

25 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Sansanee Eckman.

1           PETITIONER ECKMAN:   Yes.

2           COURTROOM DEPUTY:   Niru Pokharel.

3           PETITIONER POKHAREL:   Yes.

4           COURTROOM DEPUTY:   Arsenio Frausto.

5           MR. LIMAS:   Limas.

6           COURTROOM DEPUTY:   Limas?   Thank you.

7           Luzviminda Hofer.

8           MS. HOFER:   Yes.

9           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL:   And as a matter of court  
10   business, we waive the local rule prohibiting recording devices  
11   and cameras in the courtroom.   We're here joined by News  
12   Channel 5.   As I understand it, is it Katie Spencer who is  
13   attending our naturalization ceremony.   Welcome.   It is great  
14   to have some press event or some press coverage for our  
15   naturalization ceremony.   Thank you for taking time out of your  
16   busy day as well.

17                 Who will be making the motion?   Mark, Mr. Klaassen.

18           MR. KLAASSEN:   Thank you.   Good afternoon, Your Honor,  
19   Judge Rankin, Judge Johnson.   May it please the Court.

20                 My name is Mark Klaassen, and I'm here today appearing  
21   as a representative of the United States Attorney's Office for  
22   the District of Wyoming.   And on behalf of the Attorney General  
23   of the United States and these proceedings, it is my privilege,  
24   Your Honor, to introduce to the Court the following individuals  
25   who appear in person for a hearing on their petitions for

1 naturalization as United States citizens: Nomundari McCaughan,  
2 former inhabitant of Mongolia; Luz Martinez, former inhabitant  
3 of Mexico; Nina Brehm, former inhabitant of the United Kingdom;  
4 Charles Ofuyo, former inhabitant of Kenya; Killian Muli, former  
5 inhabitant of Kenya; Sansanee Eckman, former inhabitant of  
6 Thailand; Niru Pokharel, former inhabitant of Nepal; Arsenio  
7 Frausto, former inhabitant of Mexico; and Luzviminda Hofer,  
8 former inhabitant of the Philippines.

9           Each of these individuals has been interviewed and  
10 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United  
11 States Citizenship and Immigration Service who has completed  
12 the character and background investigation. Citizenship and  
13 Immigration Services indicates that each of these individuals  
14 has met all requirements for naturalization and is well  
15 qualified as a desirable candidate for United States  
16 citizenship.

17           As a fellow citizen, I want to welcome and  
18 congratulate each of these petitioners on this special  
19 occasion. On the recommendation of the Immigration officer, it  
20 is my honor to move that all of these petitioners be granted  
21 United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

22           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

23           I would ask the -- my fellow judges, who I would like  
24 to introduce at this time, to stand with me to administer the  
25 oath of citizenship.

1           To my left is our Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly Rankin  
2 whose office is here in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and to my right  
3 United States District Court Judge Alan Johnson whose duty  
4 station also is here in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

5           My name is Nancy Freudenthal. Unfortunately we are  
6 not able to have with us today our circuit court judge, Greg  
7 Phillips. He sends his regrets. Our U.S. District Judge from  
8 Casper, Scott Skavdahl, is busy in court up in Casper today and  
9 is also unable to attend.

10           With that, I would invite my colleagues to stand, have  
11 the petitioners stand also. Please raise your right hand:

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

1           Congratulations on being new citizens of the United  
2 States of America.

3           (Applause.)

4           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated -- well,  
5 let's all stand. I always forget this. We are up and down.

6           Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7           (Pledge of Allegiance.)

8           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We now have the pleasure of  
9 hearing from members of the Cheyenne Capital Quartet: Barb  
10 Boyer, Dyan Burns, Heidi King and LuWanna DePorter and  
11 Sheryl -- Sheila Green who will sing the Star-Spangled Banner.

12          (Star-Spangled Banner performance.)

13          CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. We have a video  
14 from President Barack Obama.

15          (Video message played.)

16          CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Well, now the fun begins  
17 with quite a few presentations to be made.

18          The first and important presentation for which you've  
19 worked very hard and waited quite a while for are the  
20 certificates of your citizenship. I'd like to join our  
21 courtroom deputy in passing those out to you and shaking your  
22 hand. You'll have a lot of people shake your hand today, and  
23 so I hope you're ready for that.

24          I would invite the judges off the bench if they would  
25 like to come down as well to welcome you as our new American

1 citizens.

2           We have a number of patriotic organizations who help  
3 us by distributing additional items to our new citizens as well  
4 as by hosting a tea to welcome you here in the federal court.  
5 The hostesses for the tea are the Colonial Dames of the 17th  
6 Century. If you would like to stand when I read your name:  
7 Billie Neff, Van Mellblom and Judy Norman. Thank you for  
8 hosting the tea later. Everyone is welcome to the tea  
9 following the ceremony today.

10           I will go around and introduce all the patriotic  
11 organizations and their members who are here, and then I would  
12 invite you all to go up and pass out the various items.

13           We have the American flag, presented by the Daughters  
14 of the American Revolution: Donna Weaver and Judy Engelhart.  
15 If you would just like to stand when I read your name and you  
16 can stay standing if you'd like and then we'll just have you  
17 all go up.

18           Then we have the American Flag Code presented by the  
19 VFW 1881 Auxiliary: Diana Shinneman, Carol Tabor and -- Carol  
20 Tabor.

21           We have the Star-Spangled Banner booklet presented by  
22 the Colonial Dames of America: Tiffany Smith and Dorothy  
23 Torkelson.

24           We have the Wyoming Constitution presented by the  
25 American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary: Eva Moore and Bernice

1 Gertsch.

2 And the U.S. Constitution will be presented by the VFW  
3 4343 Auxiliary: Mary Lou Lynn.

4 Ladies, if you would like to present your materials to  
5 the new citizens, please do so.

6 Thank you. We also have presentation letters and  
7 welcome letters by Wyoming's congressional delegation. On  
8 behalf of our senior senator, Senator Mike Enzi, we have Martha  
9 Wilson. On behalf of Senator John Barrasso, we have Jamie  
10 Gronksi. And on behalf of Representative Cynthia Lummis, we  
11 have Nancy Prosser. If you wish to present the letters from  
12 our delegation. Thank you.

13 I would like to make another introduction at this  
14 time and welcome to our supervisory Immigration Services  
15 Officer from Denver, Scott Koenigsberg. Thank you, sir, for  
16 attending today.

17 Before I forget, let me again acknowledge the fifth  
18 grade classes. I'm not sure if they have anything to say or  
19 have a presentation, but we have two fifth grade classes from  
20 Jessup Elementary. Their teachers are Jennifer Leman and Donna  
21 Coulson. I'll turn it over to the teachers.

22 For our audience, could we hear what was passed out?  
23 Would either one of the students or the teacher --

24 JESSUP STAFF: We just have a note that we wrote  
25 congratulating you on becoming naturalized citizens and we all

1 signed it. And we just -- we've been studying as fifth  
2 grade -- fifth graders are studying American history and  
3 civics, so we've been studying. We took the first 25 questions  
4 that you guys had to take on the naturalization tests, and we  
5 only missed one. That was pretty good.

6 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: It is quite the test, isn't  
7 it? I would challenge a number of people to take that test and  
8 do as well as the fifth graders. Congratulations.

9 We're truly fortunate today to have as our guest  
10 speaker former Governor Jim Geringer. He, too, as we all, or I  
11 suspect nearly everyone here, come in some distant or less than  
12 distant way from immigrants. His father emigrated from Russia  
13 from the part of the Volga German region. His mother's family  
14 emigrated from Sweden.

15 Governor Geringer is a native of Wyoming. He was  
16 reared on his family farm near Wheatland, Wyoming, which is  
17 just a few files up I-25. He was a ten-year member of 4-H. He  
18 earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State  
19 University. He served several years on the U.S. Air Force  
20 Unmanned Space Programs integrating space boosters and  
21 satellites for both the Air Force and NASA.

22 He served in the Wyoming Legislature. That's where he  
23 started his time in politics. That's where I met Governor  
24 Geringer. He served from 1983 to 1994, which included six  
25 years each in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

1           His full-time occupations included contract  
2 administrator for the construction of the large coal-fired  
3 electric power plant, I'm assuming by Wheatland.

4           GOVERNOR GERINGER: Yes.

5           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: And he's also full time in  
6 the production of agriculture. Governor Geringer was elected  
7 Wyoming's 30th governor in 1994, completing his second term in  
8 January 2003.

9           Since that time in politics, he's redeemed himself.  
10 In 2003 he joined Environmental Systems Research Institute,  
11 ESRI, which is a world leader in geographic information systems  
12 software. He's one of their senior executives. He serves on  
13 the board of directors of the Dakota Gasification which is a  
14 producer of synthetic natural gas and ten other coproducts.  
15 Governor Geringer and his wife Sherry have 5 children, 11  
16 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

17           They relocated from Wheatland to here in Cheyenne with  
18 a home here in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and that's where they base  
19 their consulting business, The Geringer Group. He's a very  
20 busy man and has served and continues to serve on a number of  
21 boards, both advisory and governing. I think he -- his area of  
22 significance both as a governor with the Western Governors  
23 University -- or Western Governors Association and with other  
24 entities has been in education.

25           So Governor Geringer, thank you very much for joining

1 us today, taking time out of your busy calendar. I would  
2 invite you to address our new citizens.

3 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal and  
4 Judge Rankin, Judge Johnson. It's a pleasure to join you.

5 And I'm very honored to welcome you as new citizens as  
6 the president said, to the United States of America, but in  
7 particular, to the state of Wyoming. I assume each of you will  
8 have something to do in Wyoming, correct? Good. We all do,  
9 don't we?

10 And for the fifth grade class, we have had children  
11 and grandchildren that attended Jessup. It is one of our  
12 favorite schools in Cheyenne. And I remember speaking to my  
13 granddaughter Katie's fifth grade class about citizenship. So  
14 you took 25 of the questions, right, on the citizenship test,  
15 and you had a hundred? Has anybody else here taken all one  
16 hundred? There are at least a couple that are willing to admit  
17 it.

18 I think each of us should regularly go back and say  
19 what did this group of new citizens do to learn about the  
20 country that now they have adopted and we have adopted them.  
21 It would be something for us to do.

22 But as Judge Freudenthal mentioned, my father  
23 emigrated from Russia. He was a small child, very large  
24 family, 11 children; two of them passed away at a young age.  
25 They settled in southern Colorado. Pretty much -- well,

1 because someone else had paid their passage to America they had  
2 to work for many years to work off that passage to come here.  
3 And they eventually made their way up to Wyoming. I am glad  
4 this is where I was born. That's a good thing.

5 My father had an eighth grade education and his father  
6 said, "Well, that's eight more years than I had. You go to  
7 work." But they both, my father and mother, had a great  
8 respect for education. And as you sit here now as new citizens  
9 of Wyoming and of America, I urge you to encourage others to  
10 always do better through education, through training, things  
11 like that, because you'll be passing things along to another  
12 generation of citizens. I'm sure you will encounter new  
13 citizens both in terms of birth as well as people who come to  
14 America.

15 My first bit of advice would be remember nothing comes  
16 easy. It hasn't been easy to get this far, has it? Did any of  
17 you think it was pretty easy? No, doesn't sound like it.

18 Well, one of the traditions we have in both Wyoming  
19 and America is we like to try to pass something along to those  
20 who follow us that's better than what we receive. And so I  
21 challenge you to think about that as you go on to your  
22 opportunity as a citizen. And I would reflect back on  
23 what's -- what's considered as -- to be considered a citizen:  
24 The rights, the privileges and the responsibilities.

25 The rights are guaranteed now by you being a citizen,

1 the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. There are other  
2 rights that you're entitled to: Life, liberty and the pursuit  
3 of happiness, for instance.

4 There are privileges; the privilege to drive with a  
5 license, that type of thing. There are other privileges that  
6 you enjoy.

7 And the responsibilities. You're sitting in the jury  
8 box. You may be called to jury duty sometime. We each have  
9 responsibilities to live out our citizenship in our life.

10 Well, let's see now. Do you each have a job? Anybody  
11 still looking? Doing okay? Okay. Has Judge -- I always  
12 hesitate to have someone read my biography because I think I'm  
13 sitting at my own funeral. Gosh, how did I do all that? Well,  
14 as you noticed, I can't seem to hold a job. I've done several  
15 things in my life. And I make a point of that because whatever  
16 job you have, I urge you to do your best. In fact, I always  
17 used to encourage the folks who worked for me, both as governor  
18 and in the private sector, always try to work yourself out of  
19 your current job because you should always be trying to do  
20 better. And that's the best encouragement you can give others  
21 to show them by example: Yeah, it is a little bit tough right  
22 now, or maybe things are great but things might change. Always  
23 be prepared to be better. I think at last count I've had six  
24 full-time jobs, probably still looking. Not too sure if I'll  
25 have to.

1           The one thing you want to do is pursue something out  
2 of passion. Why are you here? Why did you come? What is  
3 important to pass along to someone else? How can you share  
4 that passion?

5           You swore an oath to live up to your responsibilities  
6 as a U.S. citizen. That doesn't mean that you forget your  
7 past. It doesn't mean that you forget your values. The values  
8 that my parents instilled in me and my brothers and sisters  
9 included an appreciation for education, for always doing the  
10 best job that you could, for serving in the military. I had a  
11 total of 21 years in active and reserve duty.

12           So as we think about all the rights that we have, the  
13 privileges that we enjoy and the responsibilities, one of the  
14 things that you might consider is responsibility to be a good  
15 example to someone else. And it might only be one other person  
16 in your whole other life. And you will make a difference. You  
17 probably already have just by becoming a citizen.

18           And by sitting in the jury box here it reminds me of  
19 public service. And for the groups who are here today who have  
20 passed out the different ways of reminding us of our  
21 citizenship, what it means to be here, they're taking a turn at  
22 public service. The young people in the grade five here from  
23 Jessup, they're learning about public service, what it takes to  
24 be a judge, what it takes to be a clerk or someone assisting in  
25 the court or someone in the legislature. And it can be through

1 a variety of ways. It can be service to your family, service  
2 to neighborhood organizations, to your church, whatever  
3 organizations you might choose to engage with.

4 One of the first things you try to do in a job is to  
5 find out what the values are of the person who has chosen to  
6 employ you, what is important to them; likewise, what is  
7 important to where you live in your community, in your  
8 neighborhood, and in your church or whatever organization you  
9 might choose to belong to.

10 So in that willingness to serve without compensation,  
11 oftentimes you make it a better place for the next generation.  
12 And I would say you might consider running for office. You  
13 can't run for president. You have to be a U.S.-born citizen.  
14 There's plenty of other ways to serve. Just think, one of you  
15 some day could be governor.

16 I said that to a group of fifth graders that came into  
17 my class one time and I said, "Just think, one of you could be  
18 governor some day," and the young lad next to me said,  
19 (indicating) "Let's not go that far."

20 Stay positive. Life isn't fair. Get over it. That's  
21 what I always tell my kids. And live within your means. There  
22 will always be times when you say things could be better.  
23 That's one of the first things I offer as advice to any new  
24 citizen, whether they're coming out of college or taking the  
25 oath as you have. Make today count, but always live for

1 tomorrow. Make the best of what you have because something  
2 better will come along.

3 And one thing about public service and being involved  
4 with organizations is you build relationships and more than  
5 likely one of the better jobs or even the best job you will  
6 ever have will be because someone you knew knew what you were  
7 looking for; they understood your passion, where you wanted to  
8 go.

9 So remember those who touched you and encouraged you.  
10 Now go out and touch someone else and encourage someone else.  
11 You will make a difference that way.

12 Well, we have some great wisdom from some great people  
13 in America. Saw a quote, one of the greatest philosophers,  
14 Dr. Seuss: "You're off to great places. Today is your day.  
15 Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way."  
16 Congratulations.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Governor. Say,  
19 did you take that test?

20 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Yes.

21 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Good for you.

22 GOVERNOR GERINGER: I missed two.

23 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Well, I think you're right  
24 up there with the fifth graders. Congratulations.

25 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Are you smarter than a fifth

1 grader?

2 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: What upbeat, wonderful words  
3 of advice. Thank you very much.

4 Speaking about that test, just imagine taking a test  
5 for citizenship, a hundred questions, in a language that's not  
6 your language of birth. That's really the challenge these  
7 citizens addressed and succeeded in. Again, congratulations.

8 With that, I would invite the Capital Quartet up again  
9 to sing America the Beautiful.

10 (Performance.)

11 (Applause.)

12 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. How lovely. And  
13 it is really lovely to see five members of a quartet joining us  
14 here today. I think that's the real treat.

15 With that, I would like to invite my colleagues to  
16 make some remarks of welcome to our new citizens. Judge  
17 Rankin, you want to kick that off?

18 MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge  
19 Freudenthal. Welcome. Congratulations. You are all now  
20 Americans, official now about ten minutes ago. I know it has  
21 been a long path and you all have endured a lot of study time  
22 and learning the language such that you can pass the  
23 requirements.

24 And your friends and family have endured all of that  
25 with you. So my deepest congratulations to all of you that

1 supported these new American citizens.

2 An interesting sidenote that I like to share at these  
3 ceremonies is that the long oath of allegiance that you took a  
4 few moments ago has been given to new citizens such as  
5 yourselves for a very long time. In fact, the first officially  
6 recorded oath of allegiance was made in 1778 at the Valley  
7 Forge during the American Revolutionary War. So now you join  
8 new Americans like yourselves for 237 years and counting who  
9 have taken the exact same oath.

10 And the ceremony is a wonderful and rich reminder of  
11 our unique history and always a gentle reminder of our special  
12 system of government. For us here, I'm sure we all feel an  
13 enormous sense of pride and patriotism for our country. I  
14 often tell people how special and invigorating this ceremony is  
15 and wish that more people can or could attend.

16 And that's why I'm particularly pleased to see the  
17 fifth graders from Jessup. Like Governor Geringer, I have two  
18 boys who attend. You all have never dressed up and looked so  
19 good. I think I note that I see Principal Leiseth in the  
20 corner back there. I think we should require they should dress  
21 like this every day. I'm sure the kids would enjoy that.  
22 They're shaking their heads "No."

23 I know the fifth graders have been studying civics and  
24 government and We the People, so I think your presence is  
25 timely. And thank you all for the cards. I know that you have

1 been working on those for a while. What a neat gift for our  
2 new citizens.

3           So my final words for you all, the new citizens, is  
4 just to say that you are doing more today than completing a  
5 legal process. You are making a lifelong promise to uphold the  
6 laws and values that make America what it is. That promise  
7 comes with great privileges of American citizenship. It also  
8 comes with great responsibilities. New employment, as Governor  
9 Geringer said, opportunities are being opened for you and new  
10 doors are opened wide for you today in all respects of  
11 citizenship, and I would encourage you each to explore what  
12 lies behind each one of those doors.

13           And there's no doubt that each of your communities  
14 have much to gain from each of you in the years to come.

15           Again, congratulations and welcome. And I know I  
16 speak for all of our Wyoming neighbors when I say that we are  
17 grateful to have you.

18           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Rankin.

19           Judge Johnson, if you would like to add some words.

20           JUDGE JOHNSON: Chief, new fellow citizens, deeply  
21 honored to be here to witness this ceremony that recognizes the  
22 achievements that each of you have made in your lives and the  
23 commitment that you have made to be citizens of the United  
24 States of America.

25           I don't know all of the circumstances, although I

1 respect the challenges that you have faced to be here, some of  
2 them dire, I suspect, in your lives, and the challenges that  
3 you have undertaken to learn about this new country, its  
4 tradition and the various cultures that you interact with on a  
5 daily basis, living as citizens of the United States.

6           We live in troubled times in this world. And  
7 increasingly the problems that we're seeing in this world are  
8 international, world problems: Environmental that reaches  
9 across oceans; intolerance of religions, people, races, all of  
10 which cover this world and result in conflict.

11           Seems to me that this nation at some point has a  
12 responsibility along with the other nations to the other  
13 peoples of this world because this world is going to move  
14 forward and provide a better living for all of the peoples of  
15 the world, to assume a leadership position. And what better  
16 place for a person to be able to take on those opportunities  
17 and those challenges with the example of the laws that we live  
18 under in this great nation of ours.

19           You've taken an oath freely today. Prior allegiances  
20 to other places and governments have been set aside. The  
21 unique thing about the oath that you've just taken, it is an  
22 oath to defend and support a constitution, an idea that is  
23 directed to its citizens and considers the citizen, the people  
24 of this great nation.

25           It is not an oath to support a king or a person, but

1 one that looks to an idea of justice and fairness to all. That  
2 is an important principle, I think, for us to live with.

3           The status of being an American means that each  
4 citizen has the duty to support and defend that Constitution  
5 which provides the rules of our government and guarantees our  
6 shared rights. In order to effectively participate as a  
7 citizen, we share a duty to inform ourselves of the issues  
8 affecting our lives and community. America is a nation of  
9 laws -- federal, state and local -- which must be respected, as  
10 well as each American should examine his or her own heart to  
11 ensure that we are respecting the rights, beliefs and opinions  
12 of others, both citizen and noncitizen.

13           As human beings, we make mistakes. However, in  
14 America relations with one another, tolerance of racial, ethnic  
15 and cultural differences should always be the standard of our  
16 conduct. America's been built by many different peoples  
17 working and living as one. Americans are called upon to pay  
18 their taxes, state and federal, and to honestly report their  
19 income. They respond when called to jury duty, and in time of  
20 danger, Americans will step forward in defense of their nation.

21           Each individual accepts responsibility for the proper  
22 discharge of their duties as citizens, giving meaning each day  
23 to the oath of citizenship and the Pledge of Allegiance that we  
24 share. We have the freedom to express ourselves, to write,  
25 speak and read what our minds conceive. The citizen should be

1 and is free to worship and express his or her spirituality.

2 The courtroom in which we are sitting is a place where  
3 persons accused of violating the criminal laws will be heard by  
4 a jury composed of 12 citizens, their peers. Citizens are  
5 urged to vote in federal, state and local elections and to  
6 express themselves in an informed manner to guide that precious  
7 vote.

8 They may seek federal employment, run for public  
9 office and serve their fellows. The opportunity for life  
10 allows each citizen equal opportunity to educate children, to  
11 prepare for and find meaningful occupations, living free of  
12 intrusion by government or force.

13 Liberty means more than unbridled will, and its  
14 existence should not be solely dependent upon constitution, law  
15 or courts. The spirit of liberty rests within the heart of  
16 each of us in performing the duties that we have as citizens to  
17 care for and consider the needs of our fellows.

18 If this is the path we follow, then happiness, the  
19 pleasure of our friends, the success of our families, the love  
20 for this nation and its promise will be our shared destiny.  
21 Best wishes to each of you and may the years ahead be filled  
22 with success.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

25 I, too, am tickled to address you, my fellow citizens.

1 I know in taking that oath it was perhaps difficult when we  
2 quickly reached that part that asked you to renounce your  
3 allegiance. As Judge Johnson mentioned, that allegiance is to  
4 any foreign state or sovereignty. It is an allegiance to a  
5 government that you renounced when you pledged your allegiance  
6 to the United States. You did not renounce nor should you ever  
7 renounce the devotion that you carry in your heart for your  
8 country of birth. Preserve that always.

9           And while you gain such proficiency in the English  
10 language to pass a rigorous test on citizenship, you should  
11 also preserve your native language, your native culture,  
12 heritage. It is you with that culture and with that heritage  
13 that bless us. You have enriched us, as many Americans have,  
14 for over 200 years where we have seen a constant infusion of  
15 new people from all over the world who have brought their  
16 language, their culture, their heritage, their values with  
17 them.

18           Again, today, you bless us.

19           Now I wish to speak about you as the United States  
20 citizens that you are. You may hear voices in this land that  
21 tell you that there is really just one true American religion.  
22 My advice is don't believe those voices. As an American, you  
23 may freely and openly be a Christian, a member of the Jewish  
24 faith, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim. You may adhere to any  
25 religion or none at all.

1           You may also hear voices in this land saying that  
2 there's really one true American way to think or to believe  
3 about political or economic or social matters. Again, don't  
4 believe those voices. As an American you may freely and openly  
5 adhere to political, economic and social views on the right, on  
6 the left, or anywhere in between.

7           You may also hear voices in this land saying there's  
8 really just one true American set of values. Again, don't  
9 believe it. You may openly hold beliefs and values greatly  
10 different from your neighbors, even if those values and beliefs  
11 are shared by just a few. Simply stated, there's no one  
12 American way to think or to believe. Conformity of thought,  
13 conformity of religion, conformity of belief is contrary to the  
14 underlying principles upon which this great nation is founded.

15           I would like to talk about Felix Frankfurter who came  
16 to this country from Austria in 1894. He was 12 years old when  
17 he became a naturalized citizen. He went on to become a  
18 Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Justice  
19 Frankfurter believed that in this country the highest office is  
20 citizen.

21           You have now assumed that high office and your office,  
22 like all others, has duties. You've heard about those duties:  
23 The duty to serve on a jury, the duty to serve in the armed  
24 forces when required by law. You also have the duty to be  
25 informed, the duty to participate in political -- in the

1 political process; a duty to vote, to serve; and yes, to pay  
2 taxes.

3           You also have a duty to work to make the United States  
4 the country that you hoped to find and that you want it to be.

5           Again, I welcome you as fellow citizens with all your  
6 rights and duties, with all your privileges. And thank you for  
7 the enrichment that each of you brings to our great land.

8           (Applause.)

9           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I would like to remind  
10 everyone again that you're welcome to participate in the tea  
11 that's hosted by the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. Thank  
12 you again for hosting the tea on behalf of the new citizens and  
13 their guests.

14           I would like to invite the new citizens to thank your  
15 family who are here who I'm sure worked long and hard at your  
16 side, suffering along with you to see you seated here in this  
17 jury box. So why don't you give your families a round of  
18 applause.

19           (Applause.)

20           CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: It is a pleasure to see many  
21 family members here.

22           After we recess court, we'll stay here, at least I  
23 will. If you wish to take photos, just come through those  
24 swinging doors. I think I can speak for the judges here who  
25 are able to wait, and, again, welcome the new citizens, that

1 we're happy to have our photo taken with any of the new  
2 citizens. We're happy, again, to welcome you to this great  
3 courtroom and welcome you all to this great country as new  
4 citizens.

5 Is there any other business to come before the Court?  
6 Judge?

7 JUDGE JOHNSON: No, Chief. Thank you.

8 MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Nothing further. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: With that we will stand in recess until  
10 call.

11 (Proceedings concluded 2:32 p.m., March 16, 2015.)

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 Diplomat 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 7th day of April, 2015.

*Janet Davis*

---

JANET DAVIS  
Registered Diplomat Reporter  
Federal Certified Realtime Reporter  
United States Court Reporter