

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

3
4 IN THE MATTER OF THE
5 NATURALIZATION AND GRANTING OF
6 UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO:

March 17, 2014
2:15 p.m.

7 Sung Hun Sky Cho
8 Diya Shen
9 Emma Melissa Brudlo
10 Teresa Malazarte Iway
11 Claudia Edwards
12 Chung Souk Han
13 Mariana Alvarenga Snyder
14 Alexandra Lee,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Federal Courthouse
Cheyenne, Wyoming

15 Petitioners.

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

19 BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
20 Chief United States District Judge, Presiding
21 THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
22 United States District Judge
23 THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
24 Chief United States Magistrate Judge

25 APPEARANCES:

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1 (Proceedings commenced 2:15 p.m., March 17, 2014.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Welcome, and a particular
3 special welcome to our new soon-to-be citizens. We are here
4 today for a naturalization ceremony. The first order of
5 business is to suspend the taking of pictures or the
6 prohibition against the taking of pictures, so feel free to
7 take photographs. You're welcome to come into the well, which
8 is basically through those doors there. Feel free to come
9 forward for better photo advantage as the naturalization
10 proceeding continues on.

11 It is my understanding that Assistant United States
12 Attorney Levi Martin will provide us with the roll call of
13 citizens to be naturalized, inasmuch as you've studied up on
14 their names.

15 If you would like to proceed.

16 MR. MARTIN: Indeed. Thank you, Judge Freudenthal.
17 And good afternoon, Judge Johnson and Judge Rankin.

18 Again, my name is Levi Martin. I'm here as a
19 representative of the United States Attorney's Office for the
20 District of Wyoming and as proxy for the United States Attorney
21 General.

22 It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce to the
23 Court the following individuals who appear in person today for
24 a hearing on their representative petitions for naturalization
25 as United States citizens. And having had the opportunity to

1 speak with them briefly, hopefully I will get the names
2 pronounced correctly as they asked me to introduce them.

3 Beginning in the top left, we have Sung Hun, a native
4 and former inhabitant of South Korea. We have Diya Shen, a
5 native and former inhabitant of China. We have Emma Melissa
6 Brudlo, a native and former inhabitant of Canada. We have
7 Teresa Malazarte Iway, a native and former inhabitant of the
8 Philippines.

9 And in the front row, Claudia Edwards, a native and
10 former inhabitant of Brazil; Chung Souk Han, a native and
11 former inhabitant of Germany; Mariana Alvarenga Snyder, a
12 native and former inhabitant of Brazil; and Oleksandra
13 Storozhenko and former inhabitant of Ukraine.

14 Each of these individuals has been interviewed and
15 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United
16 States Citizenship and Immigration Services who has, in turn,
17 completed the character and background investigation necessary.
18 Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that each of
19 these individuals has met all of the requirements for
20 naturalization and is well qualified as a candidate for United
21 States citizenship.

22 As a fellow citizen of the United States I want to
23 welcome you all and congratulate each of the Petitioners on
24 this very special occasion.

25 And so on the recommendation of the immigration

1 officer, it is my distinct honor to move that these eight
2 petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon the
3 taking of the oath.

4 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Assistant U.S.
5 Attorney Martin. I would like to recognize and express our
6 appreciation for his attendance, Scott Koenigsberg, from the
7 Naturalization Office. I understand -- are you the final
8 hearing officer, sir?

9 MR. KOENIGSBERG: I'm a supervisor in the office. I
10 just oversee the naturalization program.

11 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you very much for your
12 attendance today and for your participation in the
13 naturalization process. We appreciate having you here.

14 We will be introducing other guests and members of our
15 patriotic organizations and dignitaries.

16 At this time, though, I would invite the soon-to-be
17 citizens for naturalization to leave the jury box, and if you
18 would, in the same order that you're seated, form a semi-circle
19 over here in this direction so that everybody can take
20 photographs of you, and I will come down to administer the
21 oath.

22 And again, people are welcome to come in the well of
23 the courtroom so that you have the opportunity to take
24 photographs. I will try to stand out of the way of the
25 photographs.

1 At this time I would ask each of you to please raise
2 your right hand and state the oath after me.

3 I, state your name, hereby declare...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ...hereby declare...

5 THE COURT: ...on oath...

6 THE PETITIONERS: ...on oath...

7 THE COURT: ...that I absolutely and entirely...

8 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I absolutely and entirely...

9 THE COURT: ...renounce and abjure...

10 THE PETITIONERS: ...renounce and abjure...

11 THE COURT: ...all allegiance and fidelity...

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

13 THE COURT: ...to any foreign prince...

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

15 THE COURT: ...or potentate...

16 THE PETITIONERS: ...or potentate...

17 THE COURT: ...state or sovereignty...

18 THE PETITIONERS: ...state or sovereignty...

19 THE COURT: ...of whom or which...

20 THE PETITIONERS: ...of whom or which...

21 THE COURT: ...I have heretofore...

22 THE PETITIONERS: ...I have heretofore...

23 THE COURT: ...been a subject or citizen...

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

25 THE COURT: ...that I will support and defend...

1 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will support and defend...

2 THE COURT: ...the Constitution and laws...

3 THE PETITIONERS: ...the Constitution and laws...

4 THE COURT: ...of the United States of America...

5 THE PETITIONERS: ...of the United States of America...

6 THE COURT: ...against all enemies...

7 THE PETITIONERS: ...against all enemies...

8 THE COURT: ...foreign and domestic...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ...foreign and domestic...

10 THE COURT: ...that I will bear true faith...

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

12 THE COURT: ...and allegiance...

13 THE PETITIONERS: ...and allegiance...

14 THE COURT: ...to the same...

15 THE PETITIONERS: ...to the same...

16 THE COURT: ...that I will bear arms...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will bear arms...

18 THE COURT: ...on behalf of the United States...

19 THE PETITIONERS: ...on behalf of the United States...

20 THE COURT: ...when required by law...

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

22 THE COURT: ...that I will perform...

23 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will perform...

24 THE COURT: ...noncombatant service...

25 THE PETITIONERS: ...noncombatant service...

1 THE COURT: ...in the armed forces...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ...in the armed forces...

3 THE COURT: ...of the United States...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ...of the United States...

5 THE COURT: ...when required by law...

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

7 THE COURT: ...that I will perform work...

8 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I will perform work...

9 THE COURT: ...of national importance...

10 THE PETITIONERS: ...of national importance...

11 THE COURT: ...under civil direction...

12 THE PETITIONERS: ...under civil direction...

13 THE COURT: ...when required by the law...

14 THE PETITIONERS: ...when required by the law...

15 THE COURT: ...and that I will -- that I take this
16 obligation freely...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ...that I take this obligation
18 freely...

19 THE COURT: ...without any mental reservation...

20 THE PETITIONERS: ...without any mental reservation...

21 THE COURT: ...or purpose of evasion...

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

23 THE COURT: ...so help me God.

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

25 THE COURT: Congratulations. I will be shaking your

1 hands and then I will be handing out -- well, actually I think
2 I will be handing out the certificates a little later because
3 we will be enjoying the -- some music and a video, but I do
4 want to congratulate each of you personally.

5 You will go in and out of the jury box a bit, but if
6 you would like to return to your seats, we will call on our
7 next presenter.

8 I think at this time I would invite everybody to stand
9 and I would ask our Magistrate Judge, Magistrate Judge Rankin,
10 to please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

12 THE COURT: We're truly honored to have one of our
13 own, Ms. Julie Thomas, who is a court reporter for Judge
14 Johnson, bless us with America The Beautiful.

15 Julie, thank you very much for your participation.

16 (Vocal Performance: America The Beautiful.)

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. That was quite
19 lovely. Now I would ask the courtroom deputy to play the
20 President's video.

21 (Video presentation by President Obama.)

22 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. If the new
23 citizens would please step out again out of the jury box, we
24 will hand out your certificates. We also have some other
25 awards and recognitions for you.

1 I would invite the Judges, if you would like to come
2 down. You will have your hands full after all of these
3 presentations.

4 Sung Hun, congratulations. Diya Shen. Emma Melissa
5 Brudlo, soon to be Bell. Teresa Iway. Claudia Edwards. Chung
6 Souk Han. Mariana Snyder. Alexandra Lee.

7 We have additional presentations. We have a
8 presentation from America Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, presentation
9 of the American flag, Eva Moore and Frieda Warren.

10 And representatives from the Colonial Dames will be
11 passing out, I believe, the U.S. Constitution -- oh, all right.
12 The Colonial -- yes, that's right, the American Flag Code is
13 presented by the Colonial Dames of America. Why don't we go
14 with the American Flag Code? Claire, Ibbby, it is great to see
15 you.

16 The Colonial Dames of the XVII Century will be passing
17 out the U.S. Constitution.

18 We have the Daughters of the American Revolution
19 represented by Donna Weaver and Pam Imig passing out the
20 Wyoming Constitution. Thank you.

21 We have the VFW 1881 Auxiliary here represented by
22 Diana Shinneman and Carol -- is it Tabor -- passing out the
23 Star-Spangled Banner booklet.

24 And I would like to mention that the VFW-4343
25 Auxiliary will be hosting a tea after the ceremony, so please

1 stay for that tea and join us in congratulating the new
2 citizens and thanking the patriotic organizations.

3 We are all so happy to have representatives of our
4 congressional delegation. Letters from our delegation, our
5 first from Senator Enzi, our senior senator. Martha, thank you
6 very much for being here.

7 And Senator Barrasso's office is here represented by
8 Oaklie Anderson. Thank you for passing out Senator Barrasso's
9 good wishes.

10 And our U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis' office is
11 represented today by Laura Weatherford with a letter from our
12 representative.

13 Thank you. The new citizens would return to the jury
14 box, we will call upon our guest speaker for some remarks.

15 Well, in a very busy day, we are happy and honored to
16 recognize our U.S. Attorney for some remarks to our new
17 citizens. This morning we impaneled a new grand jury and so I
18 know Mr. Crofts has been busy and will continue to be busy with
19 grand jury duties.

20 I was pleased in the grand jury selection process to
21 have, I believe he is an alternate on our grand jury, a
22 naturalized citizen from New Zealand. And so at some point you
23 may be called upon to serve on a jury in this court, either a
24 grand jury or trial jury. Busy duties.

25 Mr. Crofts, if you would honor us with some remarks.

1 Feel free to reposition that podium.

2 MR. CROFTS: Thank you, Judge. I apologize for
3 turning my back on the judges. That's not something I usually
4 do in this room, but I need to look at the guests of honor.

5 I'm pleased and very proud to be among the first to
6 welcome you as new citizens of the United States. Not only are
7 you our newest citizens, but I think you may be among our best
8 citizens. And why do I say that? I was watching a television
9 show a few months ago and it was one of those sort of
10 man-on-the-street programs where they send a cameraperson and a
11 reporter out to talk to people on the street. And they were
12 asking them questions that are the same questions that are on
13 the examination that you have to take and pass to become
14 citizens -- things about what our flag looks like and how and
15 when the country was created and what our Constitution says and
16 the three branches of government and what they each do.

17 And I guess it was supposed to be funny, but I thought
18 it was very sad because those people did very poorly on those
19 examination -- on those questions. They were often wrong and
20 did not know many of the things that I think are fundamental.
21 And the sad truth is many of us that are born here as citizens
22 take that for granted and don't know what we need to know and
23 don't do what we need to do sometimes.

24 And you folks have all bravely traveled from another
25 land, in some cases very far away, in some cases not so far,

1 and you've gone through this process, studied and had to meet
2 all those requirements and learn those things that citizens
3 should know. And I tend to think that probably you will take
4 that more seriously than maybe some of us who take it for
5 granted, people who have not invested in anything.

6 We had a famous president once, John Kennedy, who made
7 a famous speech or said a famous thing in one of his speeches.
8 He said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what
9 you can do for your country." And sadly I think too many of us
10 have forgotten those words and that meaning, and I'm afraid
11 that it doesn't really cost much to be an American citizen
12 anymore.

13 This may be something that I'm particularly sensitive
14 to and some in the room may disagree with me, but I feel pretty
15 strongly about it. I'm a Vietnam veteran and every time I go
16 to Washington I go to the wall that contains the names of more
17 than 58,000 Americans who died in Vietnam. And there are a
18 couple names there that I always look up and say hello, say
19 good-bye.

20 And a tiny fraction of our citizens serve in our
21 military. We used to have a draft in the Vietnam days and it
22 had a random draw system. We obviously don't need to draft
23 everybody. There were some exemptions that I didn't always
24 agree with, but for the most part we shared that burden of
25 citizenship across our citizenry. And now it is a tiny

1 fraction of people who serve in the military. And ironically
2 and interestingly today one of my best friends in Vietnam, my
3 radio operator, was a naturalized citizen and he was a seminary
4 student. And because he was a seminary student he could have
5 asked for an exemption from the draft. He didn't. He thought
6 that that was something he should do as a citizen and so he
7 did. He went ahead and served honorably. Not only served his
8 country and me very well but he became a good friend of mine,
9 and I've always had great respect for him.

10 During the oath you were asked if you would bear arms
11 pursuant to law, and right now the law is that you don't need
12 to unless you want to. But our military protects our country,
13 but also enforces the foreign policy of our country, and I
14 personally believe that's a burden that should be shared more
15 equally and more proportionally as a matter of policy.

16 I saw, read something the other day that said more
17 than half of our citizens no longer pay federal taxes. I don't
18 agree with that either. I think even people without much
19 money, I don't think they need to pay much, but I think they
20 should pay something. I think all of our citizens should
21 contribute something to this country. They should feel they
22 have contributed something because I think that makes them
23 better citizens.

24 We have a government, if you watch the news, that
25 doesn't seem to be able to function too well. Doesn't seem to

1 be able to agree on anything, or compromise on anything.
2 Sometimes that's kind of depressing. We have officials and
3 parties who call each other names and say bad things about each
4 other and seem to be more against things than they are for
5 things. And all of that troubles me greatly, too.

6 But I don't want to stand up here and be negative and
7 say bad things about the country you have just joined because I
8 think that despite those problems that I have mentioned, I
9 still think this is the greatest country on earth.

10 A fairly well-known author, Jack Kerouac, who isn't
11 somebody that's normally quoted in federal courthouses, he said
12 this kind of interesting thing. He said, "Don't run down my
13 country. My people are immigrants. So I believe in the
14 country with all its faults. It is a big country that's made
15 mistakes, but it is still the best country."

16 And that's what I'm saying to you. My people were
17 immigrants, too. My grandfather on my father's side was born
18 in another country. On my mother's side they were here just
19 one more generation, and really all of us were immigrants if we
20 go back a few generations. This is a fairly new country.

21 You're in a federal courthouse today where one of the
22 three branches of government works every day, judges behind me
23 and my people. And I think the judicial branch works very
24 well. And it is dedicated. It has rules and provisions in the
25 Constitution and rules of evidence and rules of procedure and

1 laws that guarantee that people will be treated fairly and
2 equally in this country. And I've worked in that system many
3 years, and I think even though it makes mistakes once in a
4 while, too, I think in general it works very well.

5 So in closing what I would ask you to do as new
6 citizens is this: Keep an eye on your government. Make sure
7 it does the right thing. Don't become complacent as some of us
8 do who have been here for generations. You don't have to run
9 for public office, but keep yourself informed. Read newspapers
10 and watch the news programs. I like to watch cable news shows
11 that are on both sides of the aisle, liberal and conservative.
12 I think you run a real danger if you only listen to people that
13 agree with you. I listen to MSNBC and Fox News both. That
14 helps me with my physical condition too. It kind of gets my
15 heart rate up.

16 Talk to people, talk to your friends and fellow
17 workers about issues. And contact your elected
18 representatives, the people that are represented here today,
19 and tell them what you think how things should be. Don't be
20 complacent. Be sure to vote, serve on juries, trial juries,
21 petit juries or grand juries. As Judge Freudenthal mentioned,
22 just across the hall we have a naturalized citizen from New
23 Zealand serving, so I would encourage you to do that. Write
24 letters to the editor.

25 And finally, remember one very important thing, I

1 think -- and it is what I meant when I said this is still the
2 best country in the world. Because despite all of its faults
3 for over 250 years or about 250 years since this country was
4 founded itself on revolution, we have managed to change our
5 government in a peaceful way, without coups, without armed
6 revolution, without violence in the streets and death of
7 citizens.

8 So even though we have some politics that looks ugly
9 sometimes, we don't use force and keep the military out of our
10 civilian government and its affairs and that fact alone,
11 peaceful transfer of political power, to me means this is still
12 the greatest nation on earth.

13 I welcome you to that country as my fellow citizens.
14 I'm very proud to call you fellow citizens. Welcome to
15 America.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, U.S. Attorney
18 Crofts.

19 At this time I would invite Judge Johnson to share a
20 few remarks.

21 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. I also wish to express
22 appreciation for the sacrifices and the deliberation that has
23 brought each of our newest citizens to this ceremony.
24 Congratulations.

25 Also appreciation and recognition is deserved for the

1 families and friends that have generously supported their
2 family member and friends' decision to achieve citizenship in
3 this great nation.

4 Your decision to become citizens of the United States
5 of America and having taken the oath of allegiance today serves
6 to bind you and connect you to this most altruistic nation and
7 its values that we share of freedom, life, liberty and the
8 pursuit of happiness. You will ever after this ceremony be and
9 live as an American citizen. By that oath freely taken today
10 prior allegiances to other places and governments have been set
11 aside.

12 In time of conflict or need, the duty of the citizen
13 will henceforth be to serve the United States of America. The
14 status of being an American means that each citizen has the
15 duty to support and defend the Constitution of the United
16 States which provides the rules of our government and
17 guarantees certain rights. In order to effectively participate
18 as a citizen, you share the duty to be informed and to inform
19 ourselves of the issues affecting our lives and community and
20 to participate in the democratic process.

21 America is a nation of laws, federal, state and local,
22 which must be respected. As well, each American should examine
23 his or her own heart to ensure that they are striving to
24 respect the rights, beliefs and opinions of others, both
25 citizen and noncitizen.

1 As human beings we are prone to make mistakes.
2 However, in American relations with one another, tolerance of
3 racial, ethnic and cultural difference should always be the
4 standard. America has been built by many different peoples
5 working and living as one.

6 Americans are called upon to pay their taxes, state
7 and federal, and to honestly report their income. They respond
8 when called to jury duty and in time of danger will step
9 forward in defense of their nation. Each individual accepts
10 responsibility for the proper discharge of their own duties as
11 citizens, giving meaning each day to the oath of allegiance and
12 the pledge of allegiance that we all shared in this
13 morning -- or this afternoon.

14 As a result, we have the freedom to express ourselves,
15 to write, speak and read what our minds conceive. A citizen
16 should be and is free to worship and express his or her
17 spirituality. The courtroom in which we are sitting is a place
18 where persons accused of violating the criminal laws of the
19 United States will be heard by a jury composed of citizens.

20 A citizen is urged to vote at federal, state and local
21 elections and to express themselves in an informed manner to
22 guide their precious vote. They may seek federal employment,
23 run for public office and serve their fellows. The opportunity
24 for life allows each citizen equal opportunity to educate
25 children, to prepare for and seek meaningful occupations and to

1 live free of intrusion by government force.

2 Liberty means more than unbridled will, and its
3 existence should not be solely dependent upon the Constitution,
4 law or the courts. The spirit of liberty rests within the
5 heart of each of us in performing the duties we have as
6 citizens and to care for and consider the needs of our fellows.

7 If this is the path we follow, then happiness, the
8 pleasure of our friends, the successes of our families, the
9 love for this nation, and the promise will be our shared
10 destiny. Best wishes to each of you and may the years ahead be
11 filled with success.

12 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Judge Rankin.

15 JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Chief Judge Freudenthal.

16 Welcome. You are all now new American citizens.
17 Congratulations to you and to your families. I know it has
18 been a long road. I know the process to become a naturalized
19 citizen is a long one and so congratulations to each of you and
20 to the families that went through that process with you.

21 An interesting side note to the oath of allegiance
22 that you just took. It has been given to new citizens such as
23 yourselves for a long time. In fact, the first officially
24 recorded oath of allegiance was made in 1778 at Valley Forge
25 during the American Revolutionary War. So now you join new

1 Americans like yourselves for some 236 years that have taken
2 the exact same oath.

3 The ceremony is really a wonderful reminder of our
4 nation's rich and unique history and always a gentle reminder
5 of our special system of government. For us here, I'm sure we
6 all feel an enormous sense of pride and patriotism to our
7 country when we observe one of these naturalization ceremonies.
8 And I frequently find myself telling people how special and
9 invigorating it is and you should come and watch and see this
10 process for yourselves.

11 And that's why I'm so pleased to tell you today that
12 we have with us in the audience our fifth graders from Jessup
13 Elementary School. They are accompanied by Mrs. Lehman and
14 Mrs. Colson, their respective fifth grade teachers. And I know
15 their presence is timely because I also know they have been
16 studying in the We The People program where they learn about
17 the separate branches of government, where they learn about the
18 United States Constitution. And I know what they're studying
19 because usually at the dinner table I hear about what it is
20 they're studying from my son Harrison who I can see is in the
21 front row.

22 So we've had several discussions about this, and I
23 think it is a great opportunity for you all to observe this
24 wonderful ceremony.

25 I will just conclude by saying to our new fellow

1 citizens that you are doing more here today than completing a
2 legal process. You are making a lifelong promise to uphold the
3 values that make America what it is. That promise comes with
4 great privileges of American citizenship and it also comes with
5 great responsibilities. New employment and leadership doors
6 are being opened wide for each of you today. And I would
7 encourage you to explore what lies behind each one. And
8 there's no doubt that all of your communities will have much to
9 gain from each of you in the years to come.

10 I understand that the fifth graders, Your Honor, have
11 cards to hand out, so whenever -- I think they've prepared
12 cards for each of the new citizens, so whenever you think is a
13 good time for them to present them. Thank you.

14 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. I'm sure
15 Harrison wishes he were under the pew or seat that he's in,
16 having been introduced, but thank you very much. I will add a
17 few remarks of my own and then turn to some of the best part,
18 which is having these students come forward and present their
19 acknowledgments of your new citizenship.

20 Every time I participate in these proceedings I am
21 reminded that naturalization ceremonies, like graduations and
22 marriages, are a privilege and honor and they're a part of what
23 I enjoy the most, not only in my job, but in my daily life. I
24 often think it is too bad that we don't have a proceeding in
25 which we as citizens can renew our own vow, our own oath of

1 citizenship, and remind ourselves of what it means to be part
2 of this great country.

3 Now, I realize that in taking this oath it might have
4 been difficult to renounce your fidelity, your allegiance with
5 other states and sovereigns. I wish to remind all of you,
6 though, that what you're renouncing is your allegiance to that
7 government. You did not renounce nor should you ever forget or
8 set aside the devotion that you carry for the people of your
9 native land, for the cultures of your native land and for your
10 memories of that country and the experiences that you have had.
11 Preserve that always. It enriches your life as you come to our
12 country to enrich ours.

13 I am also reminded as to how well you have done in
14 mastering the English language where it is not your initial
15 language. Again, I would remind you to preserve your native
16 language and your native heritage and culture. Again, much
17 like your memories and experiences, that enriches our country.

18 For over 200 years, as Judge Rankin mentioned, our
19 country has been blessed by a constant infusion of new
20 citizens, new people from all around the world who have brought
21 their history, their culture, their language to our doors and
22 have been part of the fabric of the country that we love.

23 I want to speak to you now as new American citizens.
24 Attorney -- our U.S. Attorney talked about watching a wide
25 range of television broadcasts trying to explain what we should

1 be thinking about and understanding about the world around us
2 and our government. I think widening your experiences as he
3 suggested is good advice. It reminds you that there's no one
4 way of thinking, no one way of believing, no set of facts that
5 are the true facts. Only by your own discovery, your own
6 investigation and work, your own experience can you identify
7 with what you believe is true to you.

8 There is no one American religion. The beauty of
9 America is that we can freely believe and practice as a
10 Christian, as a member of the Jewish faith, a Hindu, a
11 Buddhist, a Muslim or any other faith or no faith at all.
12 These political and economic matters that we hear about on the
13 television are differing. They're different for each of us.
14 There's no one way to think or believe about those matters,
15 just like there's no one true American religion.

16 As an American you can freely and openly adhere to
17 views and opinions on the right, on the left, or anywhere in
18 between. There's no one set of values. You can openly hold
19 beliefs and values that differ from your neighbor's, differ
20 from those in this courtroom, differ from any others. You're
21 entitled to those beliefs and values, even though they're only
22 shared by a few. So don't believe that there's one way to
23 think as an American or believe. Conformity of thought is
24 against our American system and is contrary to the principles
25 upon which this country was founded.

1 Last, I would like to talk to you about this great
2 office that you hold, the office of an American citizen.
3 Supreme Court Justice Brandeis once said that in this country
4 the highest office is citizen. You have now assumed that high
5 office. You have the duty as Judge Johnson, U.S. Attorney
6 Crofts reminded us all of staying informed, a duty to
7 participate in the political process, to vote, to serve on a
8 jury, and yes, to pay taxes.

9 You have the duty as well to work to make the United
10 States the country that you hoped to find when you arrived here
11 and the country that you want it to be. Your participation in
12 that work is valuable. People like you have infused our
13 country with ideas, thoughts, inspiration, beliefs, integrity
14 and energy. Thank you very much because today it is you who
15 bless us. Congratulations.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Mrs. Lehman or Mrs. Colson,
18 I will let you take over and provide the acknowledgments of
19 citizenship that we have heard about as a preview of coming
20 attractions from Magistrate Judge Rankin.

21 MS. COLSON: We just have cards. We have cards and we
22 would just like to walk up and hand them a card, if that's all
23 right.

24 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Come through the well and
25 come forward. Again, this is the fifth grade class from Jessup

1 Elementary. My children went to Jessup. Judge Rankin's
2 children are still there.

3 JUDGE RANKIN: That's right.

4 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: So thank you very much for
5 being here today.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Maybe we could ask all of
8 our fifth graders and their teachers and colleagues to stand to
9 be recognized as a group as well.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Welcome to the federal
12 court.

13 With that, Judge Johnson, is there any further
14 business before we recess court proceedings and welcome
15 everyone to the tea?

16 JUDGE JOHNSON: Chief Judge Freudenthal, I think
17 you've covered the schedule very, very well.

18 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL. Thank you. And before I
19 forget -- I will turn to Judge Rankin as well -- I invite the
20 new citizens and their families to come forward after these
21 proceedings have ended. We will remain in the courtroom. If
22 you want to take pictures or whatever, pose by the flag or any
23 other adventures in the courtroom, you're more than welcome.
24 Again, we will be happy to receive you as well and be part of
25 your photos if you want that.

1 Judge Rankin, anything further for the business of the
2 Court?

3 JUDGE RANKIN: Nothing further. Thank you, Judge
4 Freudenthal.

5 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: All right. I would like to
6 again thank the patriotic organizations and all of you who are
7 here to welcome these new citizens to the United States. Thank
8 you very much. And thank you also for hosting the tea which I
9 believe is in the jury assembly room right across the hall.

10 With that, we will stand in recess until call.

11 (Proceedings concluded 3:00 p.m., March 17, 2014.)

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

Dated this 27th day of May, 2014.

/s/ Janet Davis

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