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NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS

FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING, PRESIDING

THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL, CHIEF JUDGE

Monday, July 11, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Ceremonial Courtroom

Cheyenne, Wyoming

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naturalization proceedings commenced
9:30 a.m., July 11, 2011.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: The first order of business is to welcome all of our soon-to-be new citizens of our United States of North America and their families and friends who are here in this courtroom to share this important moment in their lives. We want you to know that we're suspending the rule that normally applies in this court that prohibits the use of recording devices and photography in this courtroom during court proceedings. All of you who brought cameras or recording devices are free to use them during this ceremony and free to move about the courtroom as you see fit so you will have the best viewing angle in order to capture your friend or family member in a photograph.

Also, after the ceremony is concluded we will be available to take photographs over by the flag here in this beautiful ceremonial courtroom in the O'Mahoney Federal Center.

I'm pleased to introduce our Chief Judge, Nancy D. Freudenthal, who is here to share with me this important moment in your lives.

And, once again, we wish to thank the patriotic organizations who have supported for so many years these naturalization ceremonies that take place here.

I might mention that as you leave this courtroom, if

1 you will look just outside the double doors there, you will see
2 a plaque, and on that plaque are the names of many of the
3 members of these patriotic organizations who have been so
4 devoted to service, to honoring our new citizens and to
5 welcoming them as they assume their duties as citizens of the
6 United States.

7 I note that present today representing the Colonial
8 Dames is Dorothy Torkelson, Shirley Flynn, Clare Davis, Jackie
9 Boyce, Eppy Davis and Joanna Kline. All of them have been such
10 strong supporters of these naturalization ceremonies, and we
11 thank them again. They are also hostessing a special tea that
12 all of you are invited to attend that will be taking place
13 across the hall in our jury room, our jury assembly room, that
14 is located just down the hall. And I hope that each and every
15 one of you will take a few minutes to share your experiences
16 and your families and your special personalities with each
17 other as we gather together for the tea that will be sponsored
18 by the Colonial Dames.

19 There are various items that will be presented to you
20 as new citizens. The Daughters of the American Revolution are
21 represented here by Donna Weaver, Judy Englehart, Shirley Flynn
22 and Pam Immig. They will be presenting the American flag and
23 Flag Code to you.

24 United States Constitution will be presented to you by
25 Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1881 Auxiliary, represented by Diana

1 Shinneman and Carol Tabor.

2 The Wyoming Constitution of our state is presented by
3 Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 4343 represented by Mary Lou
4 Lynn, Emma Fosdick and Kathy Hansen.

5 And finally, the National Anthem booklet is presented
6 by American Legion Post #6 Auxiliary, represented here by Leigh
7 Vossler, and Linda Byrd will also present the bucking horse pin
8 who is substituting for her mother Liz who has served this
9 court on many occasions. And we hope that she's doing well and
10 hope that she will be with us when we have our next citizenship
11 celebration.

12 The Government is represented here today by Levi
13 Martin. He's an Assistant United States Attorney.

14 And each one of these ceremonies features a guest
15 speaker, and today we did not have to look far for our guest
16 speaker because he is part of our court family, someone we
17 honor and treasure, although he comes from far distant Ohio to
18 serve the court here in Laramie County and Wyoming. And so
19 much has occurred under his leadership as the clerk of court
20 and chief administrator of the United States District Court for
21 the District of Wyoming. I'm so pleased to introduce our own
22 Stephan Harris who will deliver the speech today.

23 Mr. Harris, be glad to hear from you. And feel free
24 to turn the rostrum so that you can speak to everyone.

25 CHIEF CLERK HARRIS: Thank you, Your Honors. If it

1 pleases the Court.

2 Thank you, fellow citizens. My name is Stephan
3 Harris. I am the Clerk of the United States District Court for
4 the District of Wyoming. I am one of 94 individuals that hold
5 such a position and proud to do so. Today I take my hat off
6 for a few moments, though, as Clerk of Court and speak to you
7 as a fellow citizen and share some insights and perhaps some
8 personal experiences as a citizen. And I hope that as you
9 become a citizen and you continue on and bring to this country
10 the experiences that you have, it will only make it better.

11 We will talk about some of the things some famous
12 people have said in the past, but as a son, and as a parent, as
13 a husband there are many roles we have, and today we will talk
14 about that plus one role you will have as a citizen.

15 We know that we look at ways to serve, and we hope
16 that you will continue to look for ways to serve as a citizen.
17 I quote one definition of active citizenship. It means it is
18 the philosophy that citizens should work towards the betterment
19 of their community through economic participation, whether it
20 be public, volunteer work and other such efforts to improve the
21 life of all citizens. In this vein, we want you to move
22 forward, to realize that everything you bring to the table is
23 important. The experiences that you have had prior to today
24 are most important, and the experiences that you will have
25 after today will benefit each and every one of us as fellow

1 citizens.

2 We know that you will have choices to make as you go
3 down this road and as you continue your life as a citizen.
4 Those choices are important. Seek opportunities, look for ways
5 in which your voice can be heard. Look for ways in which you
6 bring, again, the experiences that you have had in life to
7 better the community, whether it be local, whether it be
8 national. Continue to look for ways in which you can even do
9 more. And it is important that you do because each one person
10 makes a different.

11 I quote our 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt: "The
12 first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is
13 that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight." You
14 have already proven that you're willing to do that. You have
15 had a series of tests. You have had to learn things about this
16 country. You've shown that you're willing to do that. And
17 that you will pull your own weight.

18 Continue to look for ways. Don't stop the education.
19 Continue to learn. Continue to learn more and more about your
20 citizenship in this country and how you can provide more to it.

21 There are choices that you will make. And you will
22 meet people -- let me tell you, you will meet people that won't
23 like you, for whatever reason -- maybe because you wear a red
24 shirt, maybe because you're tall, maybe because you have short
25 hair. Whatever the reason, they won't agree with you. And

1 that's okay. This country was founded on argument. And we can
2 build on those things, too.

3 But let me share one example of my families. My
4 father, the late Aaron Charles Harris, he stepped off the bus
5 in Birmingham, Alabama, after the Korean War in full uniform,
6 proud to be a citizen and doing his duty. He walked down the
7 street, and he was called names that I would never even repeat
8 in this chamber. He went and visited his mother, and three
9 hours later he got on a bus and he went to Ohio where he began
10 his family. It was a choice that he made.

11 Now, he could have stayed like many did and fought
12 those who didn't agree with him for wearing that uniform or the
13 color of his skin he was. He chose to go to Ohio. He chose.
14 And why did he make that choice? Because he was a citizen of a
15 country that had choices. He made that choice. It was a bold
16 choice because he had never left Alabama other than to go to
17 the Korean War. But he made that choice, and it was his to
18 make.

19 You will have plenty of choices to make. I am glad he
20 made it. But, again, many stayed, and I'm glad many did stay
21 and fight that fine fight because many didn't agree. You can
22 fight that fight. Many won't agree with you. But you will
23 know how to make that fight and realize the importance that you
24 bring. And that's what this country says, you have choices.

25 I quote someone else, Susan B. Anthony. She says,

1 quote, "It was we, the people, not we, the white male citizens,
2 nor, yet, we, the male citizens, but we, the whole people, who
3 form the union. Men, their rights and nothing more, women,
4 their rights and nothing less."

5 So keep that in mind, that even though you have
6 choices, even though there will be people who don't agree with
7 you, be a good citizen. Fight the fine fight in the right way
8 that keeps you a good citizen.

9 We live in a community in Wyoming that is full of
10 history. We have a country that's full of history. We are
11 here and you're a part of that history today. Every day be
12 proud of it. Every day I walk through the doors of this
13 courthouse and I'm proud to serve. And every day I turn on the
14 news and I don't agree with everything that's said there, but I
15 hear the news of this nation as what is going on all over the
16 nation, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

17 Do the same. Again, look for ways in which you can
18 serve further. Look for ways in which your voice can be heard.
19 Have an opinion. Be an active citizen. Continue to be proud
20 as you are today of what you have accomplished. Be proud to be
21 here.

22 Mark this day down. Remember it. Put it somewhere
23 special. It is a special day. It is something that you should
24 remember. It is something that you have achieved and you will
25 continue to achieve and be proud of. Something that will

1 remind you of today, if it is just more than a date. Write it
2 down somewhere where you will look at it occasionally and
3 remember how you felt as you sat here today before us. It is
4 important. Every day listen. Take in. Look for ways. Have
5 an opinion. Voice that opinion correctly and continue to be
6 good citizens. Serve where the need is great. And that need
7 is everywhere if we look for it and we pay attention, if we
8 take that opportunity. Be proud to be good citizens, proud of
9 what you bring to the table.

10 I conclude with a quote by our 36th president, John
11 Fitzgerald Kennedy. He says, "This nation was founded by men
12 of many nations and backgrounds. It was founded on the
13 principle that all men are created equal and that the rights of
14 every man are diminished when the rights of one man is
15 threatened."

16 Please, continue in your course. It is just
17 beginning. Look for those opportunities and continue to
18 charter that course where we will all benefit from it.

19 Thank you very much, my future fellow citizens.

20 Thank you to the Court.

21 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Harris.

22 (Applause.)

23 JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, words to live by, for all of us.
24 We are always challenged for space in these courtrooms. All of
25 the action takes place in a very small area when we're

1 conducting litigation, and this ceremony is no different.

2 And as each of your names are called, you will be
3 coming forward to form a semicircle in this area here right
4 around the Court to take your oath of citizenship.

5 So I turn the podium over to you, Mr. Martin.

6 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor. Good morning,
7 Judge Freudenthal.

8 As stated, my name is Levi Martin. I'm here today
9 appearing as a representative of the United States Office for
10 the District of Wyoming and as a proxy for the Attorney General
11 of the United States in these proceedings.

12 It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce to the
13 Court the following individuals who appear in person for a
14 hearing on their petitions for naturalization as U.S. Citizens.

15 First for the court's consideration, Felix Cedillo.

16 JUDGE JOHNSON: Mr. Cedillo, please come down.

17 MR. MARTIN: Teddy Sarad, Junior; Johanna Sarad, plus
18 one; Carlos Amaro, Luis Hernandez Perez, Anna Zhurkova, Xiaowei
19 Boulware, Elaine Trione, and Ruth Williams.

20 Mr. Cedillo is a native and former inhabitant of the
21 Philippines, as is Teddy Sarad and Johanna Sarad. Carlos Amaro
22 is a native and former inhabitant of Mexico, as is Luis
23 Hernandez Perez. Anna Zhurkova is a native and former
24 inhabitant of Russia. Xiaowei Boulware is a native and former
25 inhabitant of the People's Republic of China. Elaine Trione is

1 a native and former Inhabitant of Australia and Ruth Williams
2 is a native and former inhabitant of the United Kingdom.

3 Each of these individuals have been interviewed and
4 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United
5 States Citizenship & Immigration Services who has completed
6 their character and background investigation. Citizenship and
7 Immigration Services indicates that each of these individuals
8 has met all of the requirements for naturalization and is well
9 qualified as a desirable candidate for United States
10 citizenship.

11 As a fellow citizen of the United States I want to
12 welcome and congratulate each of these petitioners on this very
13 special occasion. And so on the recommendation of the
14 immigration officer, it is my distinct honor to move that each
15 of these petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon
16 taking the oath.

17 JUDGE JOHNSON: We're so pleased that they're here and
18 that we can honor them today in this special ceremony in this
19 historic courtroom. And the remaining matter to be handled
20 today, of course, is the taking of the oath that has existed
21 throughout our history. It is a very lengthy oath that will be
22 administered in just a moment.

23 But I notice that there are a few of you who are
24 moving through the room with your cameras. You don't need to
25 stand in the back there. You can come through the gate and

1 find a perfect spot to take a photograph during this oath
2 taking. Move as close as you wish to be and arrange yourselves
3 so that you can take that meaningful photograph of your family
4 members and friends.

5 We are at that point. Would you please administer the
6 oath of citizenship? And would everyone harken to the words of
7 this oath because those of us who are citizens by birth take
8 these duties and obligations for granted. In fact, many of us
9 in this room probably have never heard these words spoken and
10 do not realize the oath that each of these applicants for
11 citizenship have studied and this oath that they will be taking
12 and the sacrifices they're making to become citizens of the
13 United States of North America.

14 Please proceed, Carissa.

15 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hands and repeat
16 after me.

17 I hereby declare on oath...

18 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: I hereby declare on
19 oath...

20 THE CLERK: ...that I absolutely and entirely...

21 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I absolutely and
22 entirely...

23 THE CLERK: ...renounce and abjure...

24 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...renounce and abjure...

25 THE CLERK: ...all allegiance and fidelity...

1 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...all allegiance and
2 fidelity...

3 THE CLERK: ...to any foreign prince, potentate...

4 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...to any foreign prince,
5 potentate...

6 THE CLERK: ...state or sovereignty...

7 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...state or
8 sovereignty...

9 THE CLERK: ...of whom or which I have heretofore been
10 a subject or citizen...

11 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...of whom or which I
12 have heretofore been a subject or citizen...

13 THE CLERK: ...that I will support and defend...

14 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I will support
15 and defend...

16 THE CLERK: ...the Constitution and the laws...

17 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...the Constitution and
18 the laws...

19 THE CLERK: ...of the United States of America...

20 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...of the United States
21 of America...

22 THE CLERK: ...against all enemies...

23 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...against all enemies...

24 THE CLERK: ...foreign and domestic...

25 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...foreign and

1 domestic...

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

3 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I will bear true
4 faith...

5 THE CLERK: ...and allegiance to the same...

6 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...and allegiance to the
7 same...

8 THE CLERK: ...that I will bear arms...

9 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I will bear
10 arms...

11 THE CLERK: ...on behalf of the United States...

12 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...on behalf of the
13 United States...

14 THE CLERK: ...when required by law...

15 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...when required by
16 law...

17 THE CLERK: ...that I will perform noncombat
18 services...

19 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I will perform
20 noncombat services...

21 THE CLERK: ...in the Armed Forces of the United
22 States...

23 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...in the Armed Forces of
24 the United States...

25 THE CLERK: ...when required by law...

1 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...when required by
2 law...

3 THE CLERK: ...that I will perform work of national
4 importance...

5 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...that I will perform
6 work of national importance...

7 THE CLERK: ...under civilian direction...

8 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...under civilian
9 direction...

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

11 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...when required by
12 law...

13 THE CLERK: ...and that I take this obligation
14 freely...

15 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...and that I take this
16 obligation freely...

17 THE CLERK: ...without any mental reservation...

18 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...without any mental
19 reservation...

20 THE CLERK: ...or purpose of evasion...

21 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...or purpose of
22 evasion...

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

24 APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP: ...so help me God.

25 JUDGE JOHNSON: You have taken that oath.

1 Mr. Martin, I'm pleased to grant the motion that you
2 have presented to this Court.

3 Do we have the order for me to sign?

4 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

5 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 JUDGE JOHNSON: And this is it?

7 THE CLERK: Yes, Your Honor.

8 JUDGE JOHNSON: I've signed the order of the court
9 granting the petitions for naturalization.

10 Carissa, would you please hand out the certificates?

11 Each of you feel free to take your seat again and I
12 will introduce you to each of the -- would the Daughters of the
13 American Revolution please present the American flag and Flag
14 Code.

15 The United States Constitution presented by Veterans
16 of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary.

17 The Wyoming Constitution presented by Veterans of
18 Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary.

19 The National Anthem booklets will be presented by
20 American Legion Post Auxiliary 6, and the Wyoming bucking horse
21 pin.

22 So pleased at this time for a last word to introduce
23 my colleague and friend, our Chief Judge. That means she
24 really has to do all the reading of the extra materials that
25 come to this court and kind of pay attention as she works with

1 Stephan Harris to make sure that everything moves smoothly here
2 in the United States District Court for the District of
3 Wyoming.

4 Judge Freudenthal.

5 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. Thank you, Judge
6 Johnson. Thank you for agreeing to be the presiding judge for
7 this ceremony.

8 Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to
9 recognize you as our new citizens here today. I was watching
10 television the other night, and they had a naturalization
11 ceremony as part of that series. And one of the main stars of
12 that program was expressing her concern about all of the
13 renuncements that are part of the citizenship oath. She felt
14 like she was renouncing everything she stood for. And I wanted
15 to address that.

16 It is important for you to recognize and appreciate
17 that the renouncement that is part of your oath is a
18 renouncement of allegiance to a government. It is not any sort
19 of renouncement of your cultures, your values and the devotion
20 that you carry in your heart for your native country, a
21 devotion that you will hold forever.

22 Now, I would like to take a few minutes also to
23 discuss and speak to you about your new role as a citizen.

24 This country is a country full of many voices, and
25 among those voices you may hear voices that there is only one

1 true American religion. Do not believe it. As an American you
2 may freely and openly be a Christian, a Jew, a Buddhist, a
3 Muslim. You may adhere to any religion or none at all. You
4 may hear voices in this country saying that there is only one
5 true American way to think and believe about political matters,
6 economic matters and social matters.

7 Again, do not believe those voices. As an American,
8 you may freely and openly adhere to political and social and
9 economic views on the right, or on the left, or anywhere in
10 between. You may also hear voices in this land saying that
11 there is only one true American set of values. Again, do not
12 believe it. As an American you may openly hold beliefs and
13 values that differ greatly from those of others, even if those
14 beliefs and values of others are shared by many and yours are
15 shared by few.

16 Simply stated, there is no American way to think or
17 believe. Indeed, conformity of thought, belief and religion
18 would be contrary to the underlying principles of this great
19 country. Felix Frankfurter came to this country from Austria
20 in 1894. He was 12 when he became an American citizen. He
21 went on to become a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
22 Justice Frankfurter quoted another great justice in saying that
23 in this country the highest office is citizen.

24 You now hold that very high office, and your office,
25 like our office, has duties. Mr. Harris spoke of some of those

1 duties. You have the duty to be informed. You have a duty to
2 participate in the political process. You have a duty to vote,
3 to serve on a jury, and, yes, even to pay taxes. You also have
4 a duty to work to make this country, this United States of
5 America, the country that you hope to find and a country that
6 you want it to be.

7 Again, I welcome you to citizenship to this high
8 office of citizen. And I would like to thank you for the
9 enrichment that each of you brings to our land.
10 Congratulations.

11 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, Chief Judge Freudenthal.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, you have taken an oath today
13 that is a unique oath. It is an oath that does not recognize a
14 duty to or allegiance to one particular person, not a king or
15 potentate, but to an ideal, an idea of freedom, of liberty that
16 can be enjoyed by participation, by your jury service, by your
17 interest in the political process and participation in it and
18 the joys you receive from being an informed and participating
19 citizen.

20 We wish you good fortune, success in your new nation,
21 and we welcome the ideas and culture and diversity that you
22 bring to us and the strength that each of you represents as new
23 citizens.

24 Please join me and all of your fellow citizens today
25 in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 JUDGE JOHNSON: Congratulations. We will stand in
3 recess.

4 (Applause.)

5 (Naturalization Proceedings concluded
6 10:10 a.m., July 11, 2011.)

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I, JANET DAVIS, Federal Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Merit 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 10th day of August, 2011.

/s/ Janet Davis

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