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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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

Cheyenne, Wyoming
July 16, 2018
10:10 a.m.
Cheyenne Civic Center

GARY HARPER, TRACEY MANYANI,
MIRLA KRUL, KRISTINE HARDWICK,
GABRIELA SANDAGER, MARIO HERNANDEZ-HERNANDEZ,
NALINEE MERRIGAN, VADIM BULIBAS,
POLLY SAYWELL, FACHRIL FIRGYAWAN,
JONATHAN FOX, RAMONA ROLL, JAN KUBELKA,
ADARSH PARAMBATH, NESSIE SANTOS,

Petitioners.

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

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
United States District Judge, Presiding
THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
Chief United States Magistrate Judge
THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN PARKER
United States Bankruptcy Judge

APPEARANCES:

For the United States: MARK A. KLAASSEN
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Federal Official Court Reporter
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
(307) 222-3147

*Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript
produced with computer.*

1 (Proceedings commenced 10:10 a.m., July 16, 2018.)

2 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated.

3 Well, welcome to our soon-to-be citizens and their
4 families and friends and those individuals interested in
5 naturalization.

6 The first order of business this day has the
7 attributes of federal court as we are sitting here, so that
8 requires me to waive the prohibition against cameras. We're
9 always pleased to have a portrayal of these ceremonies, these
10 types of ceremonies in memory of new citizens as well as their
11 loved ones and the public in general.

12 I'd like to also thank the Civic Center for their
13 hospitality and their helping to make this such a nice
14 ceremony. Particular thanks to Amy Gorbey, the manager for the
15 Civic Center, as well as her staff and the City administration.
16 We could not put this on without the help of the Civic Center,
17 and to be in such a nice venue really adds to the experience
18 for everyone.

19 We're particularly pleased to have joining with us
20 today Mayor Marian Orr, the boss of the Civic Center and
21 everyone in Cheyenne government.

22 I hate to put anyone on the spot, but if there's
23 anything you wish to say, either now or later following -- or
24 after the speeches that others will give, I would certainly
25 welcome any comments that you might wish to make. We have a

1 podium set up. Mayor Orr.

2 MAYOR ORR: I have to do this a lot.

3 Thank you, Judge, very much.

4 Welcome this morning. This is an honor for me. This
5 is actually the first ceremony that I will be participating in.
6 And I am a huge fan and believer of this process. None of us
7 got here without immigration, and my family actually came to
8 America. And I cannot thank you enough for all of the work
9 that you've done to get to where we are today, and certainly
10 welcome you and congratulations to your family. And we
11 couldn't be more honored to have you as citizens. Thank you so
12 much.

13 (Applause.)

14 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Mayor Orr.

15 We have a packed agenda, but before we move into that,
16 I would like to thank and introduce Ali Bukhari who is here
17 from Immigration and Naturalization Services. Thank you,
18 Mr. Bukhari, for joining us.

19 At this time I would call on our United States
20 Attorney, Mark Klaassen, to provide us with a roll call of
21 citizens to be naturalized.

22 MR. KLAASSEN: I had this microphone set up for me,
23 Mayor Orr. I apologize for that.

24 Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the Court. I'm
25 here today appearing as United States Attorney for the District

1 of Wyoming on behalf of the Attorney General of the United
2 States in these proceedings. It is my privilege this morning
3 to introduce to the Court the following individuals who appear
4 in person for a hearing on petitions for naturalization as
5 United States citizens: Gary Harper, former inhabitant of
6 Trinidad; Tracey Manyani, former inhabitant of Zimbabwe, Mirla
7 Krul, former inhabitant of the Philippines; Kristine Hardwick,
8 former inhabitant of Canada; Gabriela Sandager, former
9 inhabitant of Mexico; Mario Hernandez-Hernandez, former
10 inhabitant of Mexico; Nalinee Merrigan, former inhabitant of
11 Thailand; Vadim Bulibas, former inhabitant of Moldova; Polly
12 Saywell, former inhabitant of the United Kingdom. This one is
13 going to challenge me. I hope I get this right. Fachril
14 Firgyawan, former inhabitant of Indonesia; Gerardo Torrez,
15 former inhabitant of Mexico; Jonathan Fox, former inhabitant of
16 the United Kingdom; Ramona Roll, former inhabitant of Germany;
17 Jan Kubelka, former inhabitant of the Czech Republic; Adarsh
18 Parambath, former inhabitant of India; and Nessie Santos,
19 former inhabitant of the Philippines.

20 Each of these individuals has been interviewed and
21 examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United
22 States Citizenship & Immigration Services who has completed the
23 character and background information investigation.
24 Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that each of
25 these individuals has met all requirements for naturalization

1 and are well qualified as desirable candidates for United
2 States citizenship.

3 And so on the recommendation of the Immigration
4 officer, it is my distinct honor to move that all of these
5 petitioners be granted United States citizenship upon taking
6 the oath.

7 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, U.S. Attorney Klaassen.
8 The motion has been made for naturalization. I would invite
9 the -- my fellow judges to stand with me and ask the new-to-be
10 citizens to stand, and we will administer the oath.

11 For the audience, you can certainly follow along on
12 the oath of citizenship. It is on the back page of your
13 brochure. Please stand. Please raise your right hand.

14 I, state your name, declare on oath, that I absolutely
15 and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to
16 any foreign prince or potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom
17 or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I
18 will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United
19 States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
20 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I
21 will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by
22 law; that I will perform noncombatant services in the armed
23 forces of the United States when required by the law; that I
24 will perform work of national importance under civil direction
25 when required by the law; and that I take this obligation

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

3 Congratulations.

4 And let's all welcome our new citizens.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please all stand to join our new
7 citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

9 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I think it is fitting that we
10 remain standing for The Star-Spangled Banner performed by the
11 Capital Ambassadors under the direction of Anne Schatz.

12 (The Star-Spangled Banner performed.)

13 (President's message played.)

14 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: And now we're pleased to have the
15 United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, Mark
16 Klaassen, as our next speaker.

17 A little bit about his background. He was sworn in as
18 United States Attorney for this district last November 21st.
19 He was nominated by President Donald Trump on July 21st, 2017,
20 and was confirmed by the United States Senate on November 9th,
21 2017.

22 As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Klaassen is the chief federal
23 law enforcement official in the District of Wyoming. His
24 office is responsible for prosecuting federal crimes occurring
25 in the district such as crimes related to public corruption,

1 child exploitation, firearms and narcotics. His office also
2 defends the United States in civil cases and collects debts
3 owed to the United States.

4 Prior to his nomination, Mr. Klaassen served in the
5 United States Attorney's Office for almost nine years as
6 Assistant United States Attorney where he worked on civil and
7 financial litigation cases.

8 During that time, he served following public election
9 on the Board of Trustees for the Laramie County School District
10 No. 1.

11 Before joining the United States Attorney's Office,
12 Mr. Klaassen was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve
13 as Chief of Staff, General Counsel for the Department of
14 Homeland Security from 2007 to 2009, and before that he worked
15 as General Counsel for the U.S. House Committee on Homeland
16 Security from 2003 to 2007.

17 He is no stranger to the federal family, as he
18 previously served as a law clerk to now senior Wade Brorby,
19 Chief -- excuse me -- United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth
20 Circuit.

21 After that he joined the law firm of Lathrop &
22 Watkins. He received his BS in Finance from Oral Roberts
23 University and his JD magna cum laude from the Notre Dame Law
24 School.

25 Thank you, Mr. Klaassen, for joining us today and

1 sharing thoughts with our new citizens.

2 MR. KLAASSEN: Thank you.

3 Good morning, everyone. May it please the Court.
4 Judge Freudenthal, thank you for that kind introduction. I
5 appreciate it very much.

6 It really is an honor for me to be able to speak to
7 all of you today on this very special occasion. I look down
8 this row -- these first two rows of our newly minted citizens
9 here, and I see the smiles on your faces and I remember how
10 special these ceremonies really are. I've been to a number of
11 them in the past, and typically my role is the one you saw when
12 I first got up here, simply to make the motion and introduce
13 the roll call of those being sworn in as citizens.

14 But today I have the privilege of saying a few words
15 to you on this, I think, a very special occasion. I think it
16 is also very nice to see the support from family and friends
17 that you all have here. I know that we don't get very far in
18 life without a lot of people behind us providing us with
19 encouragement, strength and help to get through these kinds of
20 processes. And I know that relocating to a new nation, going
21 through the process of being naturalized isn't something that
22 is without cost, without some degree of effort on your part.
23 So I commend you for all of that.

24 As Judge Freudenthal was commenting, typically when
25 someone from my office is in the courtroom -- and this isn't a

1 traditional courtroom, but when we appear before the judges,
2 there's usually something that's not going really well for
3 someone in that courtroom, and the defendant is looking
4 probably at an allegation of some criminal activity, potential
5 for a prison sentence.

6 I think it is refreshing for all of us in the court
7 family to be a part of something like this where we get to --
8 instead of dealing with the liberty of someone and potentially
9 the Court having to look at what sentence may be passed, but,
10 instead, we're here and we're looking at bright futures for all
11 of you. And so it is very nice for us to celebrate that today,
12 sort of a different environment for all of us to be in, I
13 think. So I appreciate that introduction.

14 There's just a few things that I want to share with
15 you today. I -- when I attend these ceremonies, I'm always
16 impressed to look at some of the background -- and all I get is
17 country names, but it is really interesting to me to just see
18 the variety of different places that everyone is from. And I
19 saw on our list we had individuals from as far away as places
20 like Zimbabwe and Moldova. Who is from Moldova? I had no idea
21 where that was. I actually had to look that up. I Googled
22 that this morning and did a little geography lesson for myself
23 and found out where that is in the world. It is nested in
24 between Romania and the Ukraine, do I have that right? And it
25 is an interesting part there just off the Black Sea. And so I

1 had never heard of Moldova, and I apologize for that, but now
2 I'm smarter for it, I guess.

3 Anyway, it is that kind of thing, it is that sort of
4 diversity that I think these ceremonies really bring out, is
5 how someone from Moldova can become part of our national fabric
6 and bring their experience to our lives here. And so we see
7 that throughout the rolls, and we see people from all over the
8 world coming here to the United States and being naturalized as
9 fellow citizens.

10 And so as I talk about, you know, I look out and see
11 your smiling faces and see families and I see little ones in
12 the audience, which kind of touches my heart as a dad. I have
13 three little ones at home. I know that family is important.
14 And so it is great to see family with you today. And, again, I
15 commend you all for your effort on becoming citizens here.

16 In thinking about what I wanted to say to you today,
17 my mind turned a little bit to some of the immigration debate
18 that's kind of dominated a little bit of the headlines of late.
19 I certainly don't want to comment on the politics of that. It
20 is interesting to think about the system here in the United
21 States and the process that takes place when you all become
22 naturalized.

23 And I got to looking at some of the stats and I found
24 out that, you know, what you are is really an example of how
25 our system can and does work to allow a path for citizenship

1 for those who seek it. And if you look at it in a -- you look
2 at the facts, the fact is the United States is among the most
3 welcoming nations on the face of the earth. We admit nearly 1
4 million legal immigrants every year to this country. Those are
5 lawful permanent residents to the United States. Ali will
6 correct me if I'm getting any of this wrong.

7 But again, these folks like you, many of them choose a
8 path toward citizenship to be naturalized. And that's not the
9 only folks that we admit into the United States. There's
10 obviously shorter stays, shorter, more temporary in duration,
11 but a million every year. No other country in the world really
12 comes close to the United States when it comes close to those
13 kinds of numbers.

14 I think the other thing to note here today, I think
15 that in many cases while there's other countries that will
16 admit immigrant populations, the United States is somewhat
17 unique in that we not only admit immigrants, but we encourage
18 and offer a path to citizenship for full rights and
19 responsibilities as citizens, not just a pattern of sort of
20 importing immigrant workers to our society. We want those who
21 come here to come for lawful residence. There's a path to
22 citizenship, and I think that's a unique thing for our country
23 to be offering.

24 And so we welcome immigrants to this country that
25 provides for employment opportunities. We have access to

1 healthcare and our community services and safe and secure
2 neighborhoods to raise your families. That's certainly the
3 goal of my office, is to help and promote safety and security
4 for all of us.

5 The United States is not a perfect place. No place
6 is. We always strive to be better than we were before, and I
7 think you all have a role to play in that. One of the unique
8 traits in our country is the very thing you are an example of
9 today, the idea of many different cultures and backgrounds and
10 beliefs to become one nation, that we are united by shared
11 values and those values are things like individual freedom,
12 personal responsibility, mutual respect and appreciation for
13 basic human dignity.

14 Another reason I like to be a participant of these
15 ceremonies is because they serve to remind me not just of the
16 good things we enjoy as citizens, but also the responsibility
17 that all of us are taking on here as citizens. Even though I'm
18 generations removed from my ancestors who came to this country,
19 I still have to keep in mind that just because I was born here,
20 I still have a great deal of responsibility, as do you, in
21 terms of being Americans and what that means to be a citizen.

22 As you have taken the oath today, I encourage all of
23 us, as we think about these things, to really ponder the
24 meaning of those words that you said. You know, citizenship
25 isn't merely a status that we obtain. It is actually a role

1 that we play in our society. It is how we make our communities
2 better places to live. It is not just a moment in time, but it
3 is a commitment that we make to carry forward every day of our
4 lives. In deciding to become a U.S. citizen, you are showing a
5 commitment to the United States and a loyalty to our
6 Constitution.

7 Some of those commitments were embodied in all of
8 those long words we spoke in that oath, but they're important
9 things. They talk about giving up allegiance to other nations.
10 They talk about being loyal to the United States, supporting
11 the Constitution and also serving your country when it is
12 required. Those are all things we all need to remind ourselves
13 of. Those are serious responsibilities and matters of personal
14 honor for all of us to fulfill.

15 So I hope you always remember this occasion for being
16 a happy time, but also a time where we take stock of the
17 serious commitment that we're making as citizens.

18 Finally, I want to encourage you to take all of this
19 responsibility a step further. You know, we can say the words
20 of that oath and they're important, but then we have our
21 everyday lives that we're going to live out together in this
22 nation. And so I want to go beyond those and think about just
23 some of the things that we can do to make the community around
24 us a better place.

25 So if you will indulge me for a few minutes, I want to

1 talk about, you know, just there's sometimes things that happen
2 in bigger, more public ways; like holding an office. We have
3 the mayor here; being active in our communities through
4 volunteering in our churches and our civic organizations and
5 charities that you might be interested in.

6 But more often than not the true measure of how we
7 fill our roles is the things that kind of seem unimportant at
8 the time, but they really are significant and mean so much. So
9 what do I mean by that? Well, I think when we all take stock
10 of it, sometimes we have to acknowledge that a lot of this
11 starts at home, being good neighbors and responsible parents,
12 investing time and spending time with those who matter most to
13 us, our spouses, our kids, providing our children with
14 discipline and direction and guidance.

15 And I think the fact is -- and I saw this, you know,
16 when I worked on the school board, as Judge Freudenthal
17 mentioned. I think one of the things that I began to
18 realize -- and I have a fellow school board member in the
19 audience as well. But we begin to realize that as much as we
20 can do through education and those socializing influences,
21 nothing replaces a good mom and a good dad, a good husband, a
22 good wife in terms of background. So I want to encourage you
23 along those ways. When we have strong families, we have strong
24 communities.

25 So let's also think about practicing words and acts of

1 kindness, both to friends and to strangers, right? We have the
2 ability each day to choose through our words and actions to
3 produce good or evil. Both tend to multiply for better or
4 worse. So let's seek out the good. Let's behave with honesty
5 and a sense of integrity in the things we do. Work hard.
6 Don't cut corners in your walk in life, right? You will be
7 better off.

8 And then finally -- and this is particularly important
9 in the area we live in -- let's show respect for others, mutual
10 respect. Exercise your right to say it. That's one of the
11 great things about living in this country, right? But let's be
12 willing to listen and learn as our lives unfold. Don't be
13 caught up in the culture of continual offense and outrage at
14 others. That stuff may sell papers or help certain groups
15 raise money, but you don't have to go through life constantly
16 at odds with others around you. Be willing to sit down with a
17 person and have a conversation, understand them as a fellow
18 human being and learning the art of civility. I think this is
19 really important in our society today.

20 So it is the collective power of these kinds of small,
21 seemingly small things that I think make a huge -- can make a
22 huge difference for all of us in our communities.

23 Sometimes I think we think it is all up to our elected
24 leaders to determine our future. And those roles are really
25 important. It is important to vote and be civically active in

1 our communities. But we as citizens have much more to do with
2 the quality of our own lives in those small ways that I talked
3 about, making our communities better places to live. I think
4 people in Wyoming have much to be proud of in getting these
5 small things right, and I hope you will do your part to keep us
6 on the right track and always improving.

7 So as fellow citizens let's not take those commitments
8 lightly. Instead, let's do our part to make the world around
9 us a better place. Let's remain true to the promises we make
10 today as we go through life. Take on the responsibility of a
11 citizen, not just the status it affords. And let's do those
12 things, the big things and the small things, to make a positive
13 difference in all of our lives.

14 So congratulations to all of you, again, today. It is
15 a pleasure to be here with you and your families on this
16 special day. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Mr. Klaassen.

19 At this time I would like to invite the new citizens
20 to the front of the table for the certificates.

21 Mayor Orr, if you and Mr. Klaassen want to step
22 forward to welcome our new citizens.

23 (Presentation of certificates.)

24 (Applause.)

25 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We have additional presentations

1 made by various patriotic organizations as well as from our
2 congressional delegation.

3 I would invite the representatives of the American
4 Legion No. 6 Auxiliary. We have the Colonial Dames of America
5 and the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, the Daughters of
6 the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars 1881
7 Auxiliary and Veterans of Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary.

8 For the audience, the presentation includes a wide
9 variety of materials from a map -- from the Flag Code, the U.S.
10 flag, American Constitution, a number of items that we hope our
11 new citizens will enjoy and reference in future years. We
12 would welcome those representatives to step forward and
13 distribute their materials.

14 Thank you to all the representatives of our patriotic
15 organizations.

16 (Presentations from patriotic organizations.)

17 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: We also have letters welcoming and
18 congratulating each of you on the hard work through the
19 naturalization process written by members of the Wyoming
20 congressional delegation. We have representatives here from
21 our Senator Mike Enzi's office, our Senator John Barrasso's
22 office and our Representative Liz Cheney's office.

23 Ladies, if you will step forward. Thank you very
24 much.

25 (Applause.)

1 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: And now I know that we judges have
2 a few remarks of welcome and congratulations. I would begin
3 with my colleague Chief Magistrate -- Chief Bankruptcy Judge
4 Casey Parker.

5 JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. I would
6 welcome all these individuals and their efforts to become a
7 U.S. citizen, but most important, congratulations to each of
8 you on becoming a United States citizen and thank you for
9 letting me be a part of it. It is nice to see.

10 Our new citizens sometimes appear to be overwhelmed by
11 the amount of people and the pomp and circumstance. It is
12 great that you have your family here to support you. I know
13 that each of you have friends and family that support you that
14 really wish they could be here to join you. Everyone in this
15 room is here because they want to be a part of history and
16 watch you become a United States citizen. There are no words
17 that can adequately express the sacrifice each of you made to
18 get here or how proud we are of your accomplishment.

19 As U.S. Attorney Klaassen pointed out, the words
20 should be of utmost importance. You get to stand and say, "I
21 will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United
22 States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic."
23 This is such a powerful statement. It is a statement only a
24 portion of United States citizens actually get to stand and
25 make. And some United States citizens may never make that

1 allegiance. You are making the same allegiance that our
2 President and our U.S. Senators do when he or she is sworn in,
3 or like we as federal judges here today, or a brave member of
4 the military swearing to defend the freedoms of this country.

5 America is the land of the free: Freedom to choose
6 your path in life, to form and express your opinion, to educate
7 yourselves, to be part of the decision-making, to practice a
8 religion of your choosing. But as you have been told, with
9 freedom comes responsibility. It is easy to take for granted
10 the opportunities provided to us in the United States, but we
11 all have an obligation to make this place we live a better
12 place.

13 You have already shown your commitment to this by
14 taking the steps and becoming a United States citizen, a
15 process that requires dedication and tenacity. But don't stop
16 here. Take your commitment, your drive, your pride to the next
17 level and make all of us better. You had to study and learn
18 America's history and way of life, but your way of life, your
19 culture and all of your experience can enhance all of our lives
20 now.

21 I hope for the people here today that this ceremony
22 reminds us that the United States was built on diversity. The
23 diversity you bring here today makes us a stronger nation. Our
24 tolerance to allow people the freedom to express their views,
25 their religion, their beliefs is the underpinning of the

1 strength of our nation, something these new citizens worked so
2 hard to attain. If we allow our tolerance to wane, so will our
3 strength as a nation.

4 Attorney Klaassen commented we live in a country where
5 we can be anything we want. For all of you I hope you choose
6 to be kind, but I also hope that for each of you, you go as far
7 as you dare to imagine.

8 Again, congratulations. Your dedication to the
9 process demonstrates great things to come for all of you.

10 (Applause.)

11 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Parker.

12 Now we will turn to our Chief Magistrate Judge, Judge
13 Kelly Rankin.

14 MAGISTRATE JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Judge
15 Freudenthal. It is really a special honor for me to be here
16 with you. We've been on an educational tour conducting these
17 naturalization ceremonies. We have been to each of the high
18 schools here in Cheyenne and in the middle school, and I think
19 most recently at our newest elementary school, Prairie Wind.

20 Given that it is summer break, it is a perfect venue
21 here to have the ceremony, and I would thank and congratulate
22 Mayor Orr and her staff for hosting us at each of these events.

23 We're aided by our patriotic organizations who do a
24 tremendous work to make this happen. Members of our
25 congressional delegation are always here and present. And so

1 it is -- it is a great opportunity for all of us. It is a
2 happy day.

3 But mostly, it is an honor to be here with you, our
4 new citizens. Welcome and congratulations. What a long road
5 I'm sure it has been for you and your families. I'm sure it
6 has also been a struggle at times, not an easy chore, leaving
7 your homeland, saying good-bye to beloved family and friends,
8 traveling to this country, finding a home, finding a job,
9 adjusting to a new culture and a new way of life.

10 But the good news for all of us is the best of you and
11 your culture and your way of life is now the best of ours. And
12 your traditions enrich not only your family, but they enrich
13 America. Always remember that this country was founded on the
14 diversity of many lives, countries and cultures. We have been
15 blessed by the rich culture and traditions of so many people
16 like yourself and those that came before you. America is a
17 combination of the best of everyone who comes here. This great
18 country depends on new citizens such as you to learn and to
19 grow. Our survival depends on the values of diversity,
20 tolerance, dignity and the respect that we live by and teach
21 each other.

22 Our very first president, George Washington,
23 recognized the importance of immigrants to our land, not just
24 the rich and the high-ranking newcomer, but the oppressed and
25 persecuted of all nations and religions who we welcome to

1 participation in all our rights and privileges. That's a quote
2 from President Washington.

3 Being a United States citizen also means that you are
4 free. The Constitution, the laws of this country are designed
5 to protect your freedom. You are free to think on your own, to
6 form your own opinions. And you may voice those opinions,
7 whether many people or few people agree with you. You are free
8 to work where you want to work, to read what you want to read,
9 to say what you want to say. You are free to believe what you
10 want to believe, to openly practice any religion or to practice
11 no religion at all. There is no single American way to think
12 or to believe. As a citizen of the United States, you are free
13 to form your own path, wherever it will lead you.

14 But with that freedom, as you heard from U.S. Attorney
15 Klaassen, comes responsibility. The freedom of democracy comes
16 with responsibility to participate in the democracy process by
17 voting, not casually or carelessly, but in a way that is
18 thoughtful and informed. You have a responsibility to educate
19 yourself so you can make good choices for yourself, your family
20 and this country that is now your country. This democracy so
21 hard fought for only works when its people participate fully by
22 helping to choose who will govern us all and by taking the
23 process seriously.

24 The freedom of democracy also carries with it the
25 responsibility to your community and also to your country. You

1 must be willing to serve this country as you can. Use your
2 talents, be active in your communities, give back to your new
3 country through civic participation and service.

4 And, finally, I'm sure all of you had a friend or
5 family member or close friend who worked with you and made it
6 possible for you to be here today, a friend, teacher, sponsor,
7 somebody like that. Maybe they are here with you today. And
8 as you celebrate your new citizenship, make sure you let them
9 know how much their help has meant to you. And perhaps one of
10 the ways to honor them for their service to you is for you to
11 reach out a hand to someone else who needs your help. Your new
12 country, our country, will only continue to thrive if we care
13 about our fellow citizens as human beings.

14 Again, congratulations and welcome. You have clearly
15 worked incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I
16 speak for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are
17 grateful to have you.

18 (Applause.)

19 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Rankin.

20 I, too, want to add my congratulations. For members
21 in the audience, I am not sure you have the same picture I
22 have, but we have 15 United States citizens in the first two
23 rows of our center. These citizens come from ten countries,
24 and they traveled here from Wyoming communities. I looked
25 through the list, and I think we have eight different

1 communities, including Cheyenne, represented here by our new
2 citizens. This is, indeed, a significant and wonderful
3 delegation, and it is so nice to have each of you here.

4 We have one individual missing. He arrived in the
5 Casper courthouse, which has happened in the past. A little
6 confusion there when we have different courthouses in different
7 locations. He is traveling down, and hopefully we will have
8 the pleasure of swearing him in on a motion from the United
9 States Attorney later today.

10 It is always such a special privilege to make my
11 remarks on this occasion. Here are just a few.

12 First, I would say each of you should carry with you
13 as you leave this center the confidence that you now as an
14 American citizen are equal in rights and dignity to any other
15 citizen you may see here in this Civic Center, to your right
16 and to your left. You are equal in your rights. Here in
17 Cheyenne, or in Washington, DC, or Los Angeles, or anywhere
18 else in this entire nation, you're equal in rights and dignity.

19 Citizenship means your rights and privileges as a
20 citizen are equal, no matter how important that individual may
21 seem by office or position they hold, or whether that person
22 was born in the United States or, like you, have chosen to be
23 an American citizen. Each of us, as we previously heard,
24 except for our Native American neighbors, have come to this
25 country from other lands or are descended from people who left

1 their own countries to establish new lives here. We all share
2 that common bond. We are history. We are here because our
3 fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers are part of
4 that chain, and journeyed here in hope of a better life. Some,
5 sadly, were brought here against their will.

6 But no matter how or why their journeys started, they
7 all pursued -- our relatives along with yours -- the same
8 dreams, freedom and opportunity here and have all contributed,
9 as we know you will, to the history and growth of this great
10 nation.

11 It is important to realize that a country is only as
12 good as its citizens. We are, as Judge Rankin and others have
13 said, an incredibly and wonderfully diverse nation, and we have
14 the opportunity to learn from other cultures and other ways of
15 doing things.

16 The oath that you took on naturalization requires you
17 to renounce and abjure -- an odd word -- renounce and abjure
18 all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate,
19 sovereignty, state or nation. It doesn't ask you to renounce
20 the culture and love that you have for your country of birth.
21 You can enrich our country. Indeed, learning about the
22 tradition and practices of our fellow Americans adds respect
23 and adds breadth and depth to our country. The enduring truth
24 is by protecting and defending and respecting and learning from
25 others, we protect and preserve the rights, cultures of

1 ourselves and our loved ones.

2 As Judge Rankin properly noted, there's no American
3 way to think or believe, practice religion or not practice any
4 religion at all. Conformity of thought and belief is contrary
5 to the ongoing principles of this great country.

6 Again, diversity is our strength, and that diversity
7 thrives from our individual experiences and the experiences
8 that you bring from your countries that will enrich us all.

9 I would like to include a quote from Felix
10 Frankfurter, a well-known Supreme Court Justice. He came to
11 this country from Austria. He came in 1894 when he was 12
12 years old, and he became a naturalized citizen. And as I said,
13 he went on to become a Justice of the United States Supreme
14 Court, the highest court in our land.

15 Justice Frankfurter believed that, "In this country
16 the highest office is citizen." You have now assumed that high
17 office and your office, like any other office, has duties. You
18 have the duty to be informed, the duty to participate knowingly
19 and in an informed way in the political process, the duty to
20 vote, to serve on a jury when called, an important duty of -- a
21 duty of national importance, that is service on a jury, and,
22 yes, to pay taxes. You also have a duty to work to make the
23 United States the country that you hoped to find when you came
24 here and that you want it to be for yourself, your children and
25 your loved ones.

1 I'd ask that you please take a moment today to welcome
2 the individuals who join you as new citizens in the United
3 States. Please join with them and with us in the reception
4 that will be hosted after this event. We are always happy that
5 we have a bit of social time with our new citizens.

6 The refreshments and reception is hosted by the
7 American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary. Thank you, ladies, for
8 providing refreshments for this important occasion.

9 Again, remember the faces that you see today. Each of
10 you and all of us are part of the future of this great nation.
11 Congratulations.

12 (Applause.)

13 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: And it seems most appropriate to
14 end with a lovely song performed by the Capital Ambassadors:
15 Diane Christensen, LuAnna Porter and Barb Boyer. Thank you
16 very much for the beautiful selections today.

17 (Applause.)

18 (America The Beautiful performed.)

19 (Applause.)

20 JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you. That was lovely.

21 Again, remember the reception which is set up in the
22 lobby. We'll see you there. Congratulations.

23 We'll stand adjourned subject to call.

24 (Proceedings concluded 11:09 a.m., July 16, 2018.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Dated this 23rd day of August, 2018.

Janet Davis

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