

1 (Proceedings commenced 3:39 p.m., September 11, 2023.)

2 COURTRROOM DEPUTY: Oyez, Oyez, Oyez: The United
3 States District Court for the District of Wyoming is now in
4 session; Honorable Chief Judge Skavdahl presiding. God save
5 the United States and this honorable court.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

7 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to
8 the Ewing T. Kerr Federal Courthouse. The Court will suspend
9 all rules on cameras and recording devices, but I would ask
10 that you turn them to silent mode, if you could, please.

11 It is the tradition at the beginning of the
12 naturalization ceremonies to recognize the citizens and
13 families and friends who have -- also recognize the citizens
14 and families and friends that have paid the ultimate price in
15 defending what so many in this world seek, the freedom and
16 benefits of becoming a United States citizen.

17 As of this morning, 7,078 American men and women have
18 been killed in action while involved in military operations in
19 the Middle East.

20 In addition, 53,356 United States military personnel
21 have been wounded in action defending the freedoms that we
22 enjoy.

23 And finally, let us be mindful that, as of 22 years
24 ago today, 2,977 men and women died in the terrorist attacks on
25 our home country.

1 The freedoms that we enjoy and the privileges that we
2 have as Americans would not exist but for these people that
3 have made the ultimate sacrifice and their families. Let us
4 take a moment of silence and recognize these American heroes
5 and their families.

6 (Moment of silence.)

7 THE COURT: The United States District Court for the
8 District of Wyoming is in special session for the
9 naturalization of foreign nationals to be United States
10 citizens. It is with great honor, pride and privilege that I'm
11 able to conduct today's ceremony naturalizing 20 new United
12 States citizens from around the world, including eight
13 different countries today.

14 The Federal District Court for the District of
15 Wyoming, including Judges Johnson, Freudenthal, Rankin and
16 Hambrick, extend their congratulations to you and your family
17 and friends.

18 At this time I would ask our representative from the
19 Immigration and Naturalization Service, Ms. Bynon -- there you
20 are -- could I ask that you call the roll call of prospective
21 applicants for U.S. citizenship?

22 And if you can raise your hands when your name is
23 called so I can verify that we have you all here.

24 MS. BYNON: They don't teach name pronunciation at the
25 academy, so please forgive me. I will do my best to not ruin

1 your names: Wiraya Cox, Caroline Stella Loesch, Mylen Bearden,
2 Arnelinda Gubat Hartmann, Remedios Aguinaldo Garcellano,
3 Katharina Elisabeth Bohr Buresh, Landy Millien Lutz, Jesada
4 Pirabun, Divina Velasco Api, Orlando Escarcega Montes, Dante
5 Villanueva Ricaforte Jr., Fayne Conadera Ricaforte, Donaciano
6 Garcia Reynoso, Cherry Marie Hernandez Tuazon, Dennis Delfin
7 Tuazon, Jorge Antonio Licon, Pedro Rodrigues Rivera, Juana
8 Altamirano Rodriguez, Sabita Devkota and Maybel Ghanem.

9 Thank you, sir.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. And there's a reason why I
11 have you make that roll call as opposed to myself.

12 Let me ask, is there anyone else out there that
13 thought they were supposed to be up here that didn't have their
14 name called?

15 I don't see anyone else's raised hands. Very well.

16 At this time let me ask that the Natrona County High
17 School Junior ROTC post the colors, and if you could all rise.

18 (Posting of colors.)

19 THE COURT: Could I ask at this time, Dahlia -- is
20 that correct -- Dahlia -- I'm sorry, Dahlia, could you lead us
21 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

22 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

23 THE COURT: Please remain standing for the playing of
24 the Star-Spangled Banner.

25 (Star-Spangled Banner played.)

1 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

2 At this time I would ask that the clerk of court play
3 the video from the President.

4 (Presidential video played.)

5 THE COURT: Thank you.

6 At this time I would recognize Mr. David Kubichek on
7 behalf of the United States Attorney General for presentation
8 of the petition for citizenship.

9 Mr. Kubichek.

10 MR. KUBICHEK: May it please the Court.

11 THE COURT: Counsel.

12 MR. KUBICHEK: Before the Court this afternoon are
13 individuals for a hearing on their petitions for
14 naturalization. Each of these prospective citizens has
15 successfully completed all of the steps necessary for
16 eligibility for United States citizenship.

17 Moreover, the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
18 has completed its processes with respect to each of those
19 individuals, including the necessary background investigations.
20 Having successfully negotiated all of these hurdles, we are
21 advised that each of them is well qualified to be admitted to
22 citizenship.

23 Therefore, Your Honor, the United States hereby moves
24 the Court to admit each of these individuals to United States
25 citizenship upon their taking of the required oath.

1 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kubichek.

2 On the petition of the United States, the Court finds
3 that each of these applicants identified has satisfied the
4 legal requirements to become United States citizens and,
5 therefore, will grant the petition and enter an order allowing
6 these petitioners to become citizens of the United States of
7 America, subject to the taking of their oath.

8 At this time, if I could ask our newest-to-be United
9 States citizens if you could please stand and raise your right
10 hands and repeat after me: I, state your name, hereby declare
11 on oath that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all
12 allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince or potentate,
13 state or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a
14 subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the
15 constitution and laws of the United States of America against
16 all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith
17 and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of
18 the United States when required to do so by law; I take this
19 obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of
20 evasion, so help me God.

21 Congratulations to our newest U.S. citizens.

22 (Applause.)

23 THE COURT: Go ahead and have a seat. We will hand
24 out your certificates at this time. And, as we're doing that,
25 those of you who wish, feel free to relocate to get a picture

1 if you want.

2 (Distribution of certificates.)

3 THE COURT: Now, having received your certificates and
4 taken your oath, it is important that we indoctrinate you
5 quickly and introduce you to the people that you need to have
6 in mind when it comes to your complaints and/or praise as to
7 the government and how it is working and operating.

8 So with that, I would recognize, on behalf of the
9 Congressional designation, presentation of letters by the
10 senators and representatives: Senator Barrasso's office, I
11 believe we have representatives of Ms. Vollmer and McLemore.
12 If I could have you -- and then we have representatives from
13 Senator Lummis, Ally Garner, Ms. Garner. Okay. You're over
14 there in the other seats. Okay.

15 And also, on behalf of Congresswoman Hageman,
16 Ms. Hedges, Ms. Moore -- Mr. Moore, and Ms. Scaling. There we
17 are.

18 All right. If you would like to at this time hand out
19 your letters, I would recognize you to do so.

20 (Distribution of congressional letters.)

21 THE COURT: Important parts of these letters include
22 contact information as to where you can call -- or email
23 addresses, I guess, is the more -- I don't know if there's
24 Twitter accounts or X or whatever it is now.

25 (Distribution of congressional letters.)

1 (Applause.)

2 THE COURT: There are some sincerities that you just
3 can't imitate.

4 At this time -- I recognize partly why everyone was
5 looking at me a little bit stunned because I switched the order
6 of things. I apologize.

7 Let me back up now and have you meet some of the
8 successors or contributors to the freedoms and rights that we
9 enjoy.

10 First, I would recognize the Daughters of the American
11 Revolution.

12 MS. BENNETT: Good afternoon and congratulations, and
13 it is really nice to see our new citizens of the United States.

14 I would like to just read an observation that
15 President Reagan read in his last speech as President.

16 *You can go to live in France, but you cannot become a*
17 *Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey or Japan,*
18 *but you cannot become a German, a Turk or Japanese. But anyone*
19 *from anywhere, any corner of the earth, can come to live in*
20 *America and can become an American.*

21 And we're thankful you're here.

22 (Applause.)

23 THE COURT: I would also recognize the American
24 Legion.

25 MR. WINZENRIED: I'm the Post Adjutant for American

1 Legion Post 2 here in Casper. And we're so happy to see you
2 guys get your citizenship and become a citizen.

3 The American Legion was established in 1919 after
4 World War I to support American veterans and their families,
5 and today is one of those days we honor all of our fallen that
6 were lost during September 11th, and it is a well-respected day
7 for the American Legion. It is in part of our blood to make
8 sure we honor those veterans.

9 So today is your day, so we wanted to congratulate you
10 and thank you for working so diligently to become a citizen.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. United Veterans Council of
12 Natrona County.

13 MR. LAURENZ: First, Your Honor, I would like to say
14 that George Wentz (unintelligible) wanted to be here today, but
15 a doctor's appointment got in his way.

16 Hank Laurenz with the Natrona County United Veterans
17 Council, and we basically combine our efforts at the American
18 Legion, VFW (unintelligible).

19 So with that, I'm glad to see you all here, and
20 congratulations and good luck.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 Let me make sure -- do I have a representative on
23 behalf of the Wyoming Society of U.S. Daughters of 1812? Okay.

24 And Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American
25 Veterans?

1 Is there any other veterans group that I have not
2 recognized yet?

3 MR. LAURENZ: Ernie Blackford is part of the U.S. --
4 part of the Veterans Council also and sure he would like to say
5 a few words.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Blackford, welcome.

7 MR. BLACKFORD: Good afternoon, Your Honor, and
8 welcome. My name is Ernie Blackford, commander of VFW 9439.

9 The VFW was established in 1899 during the Spanish
10 American War during the insurrection, and our mission is to
11 support all veterans and their families, the active military
12 and our communities.

13 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Blackford.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE COURT: We would not enjoy the freedoms and rights
16 and abilities that we have today without the sacrifices made by
17 these men and women and their families and ancestors that have
18 given so much to this country to allow us to do what we do and
19 have the freedoms we have.

20 Let me turn to -- a lot of you are entrepreneurs
21 coming to America, and as entrepreneurs one of the important
22 entities that you may meet along the way is the Small Business
23 Administration. And I believe we have a representative,
24 Mr. Belzer.

25 MR. BELZER: Congratulations, everyone.

1 The U.S. Small Business Administration was created in
2 1953, and we are tasked with helping small businesses start,
3 grow, expand and recover. I'm going to give you a pamphlet
4 that has contact information and a little bit about our agency.
5 If you ever have any questions about starting a small
6 business -- or if you already have a small business -- and what
7 we can do to help grow it, please don't hesitate to give us a
8 call.

9 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

10 Last, but not least, I would recognize League of Women
11 Voters in their participation here.

12 MS. MCCORMICK: Just on behalf of the Wyoming League
13 of Women Voters, I want to congratulate all of you on your hard
14 work and say that we are thrilled to have you join our
15 community. We have some "Look Into The Government," Wyoming
16 government books for you, and encourage you to get involved and
17 to vote and to exercise your citizenship rights.

18 Thank you for joining us and being part of our
19 community.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE COURT: I have to say, I'm not used to this many
22 people being here. Normally, I have very few people here and
23 the people that are here are usually at the podium in
24 handcuffs. So this is -- this is a welcome change of scenery.

25 But I am looking for the groups that I may have

1 overlooked, and I see so many that are in the well of the court
2 that are not normally in the well of the court.

3 So let me ask this: Have I failed to recognize any
4 group that is here and thought that they were participating and
5 haven't been recognized? If so, please raise your hand.

6 All right. There's no raised hands.

7 Let us turn to the most important thing of the day and
8 that is our new U.S. citizens. What I would ask is -- and I
9 don't want to turn you into public speakers, but I think it is
10 important that those that have brought you here today and those
11 that you want to recognize having contributed to getting you
12 here today and anything that you might like to add as to
13 something that makes you excited about today's proceeding, just
14 a few minutes, if you wish, and I would start with Ms. Cox.

15 WIRAYA COX: I don't know how to say. I'm excited.

16 THE COURT: Did someone bring you here today? Are
17 they here with you?

18 WIRAYA COX: Yeah, but I am from Thailand. My husband
19 here, my son, my friend, grandma and teacher come here today.
20 Thank you so much come with me.

21 (Applause.)

22 CAROLINE STELLA LOESCH: Caroline, I'm from Canada,
23 been here for 55 years, joined the United States Army. My
24 friends and family, my husband is here. And it has been a long
25 time coming.

1 (Applause.)

2 MYLEN BEARDEN: My name is Mylen Bearden, and I am
3 from the Philippines. I came here because of love for my
4 awesome husband.

5 THE COURT: Congratulations.

6 MYLEN BEARDEN: Also I am so excited to be a citizen,
7 first of all, because I meet the greatest American people.
8 Hello to my friends, church friends, church family. My
9 friend -- I am so excited.

10 So I meet the dreamers of this country, the
11 goalkeepers of this country, the makers of this great country,
12 and they are the big reason why I wanted to belong with them,
13 to belong to this country, 'cause this country is full of
14 partakers of the dreamers like me, and a country that can
15 exercise our freedoms, especially in our faith. And I would
16 say God bless great American people.

17 (Applause.)

18 ARNELINDA GUBAT HARTMANN: My name is Arnelinda Gubat
19 Hartmann. I'm here with my husband and my son and my friends.
20 Hi. Thank you for scheduling your job not to go to your work,
21 just to being here. I appreciate that. And I have a lot of
22 friends from church and school that are, you know, Americanized
23 nice people. And, you guys, thank you for coming here.

24 REMEDIOS AGUINALDO GARCELLANO: My name is Remedios
25 Aguinaldo Garcellano from Canada, and thank you for my friends

1 who are here now and thank you to everybody.

2 (Applause.)

3 KATHARINA ELISABETH BOHR BURESH: My name is Katharina
4 Elisabeth Bohr Buresh. I came to the United States in 1977 as
5 a high school exchange student, where I met a boy. Seems to be
6 a theme over here. So to my husband, thanks for putting up
7 with me since 1999, and also to the many co-workers and former
8 English-as-a-second-language students and friends that we've
9 made in Casper for the last 23 years. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 LANDY MILLIEN LUTZ: A beautiful day to become a
12 citizen. My name is Landy Lutz. I'm here from Haiti. I've
13 been here 11 years, and it is my pleasure to be here today and
14 become a citizen. It has been a dream come true, and I think
15 of my beautiful family over here and my in-laws and my husband
16 and my little baby that was born on the 4th of July.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE COURT: Congratulations.

19 JESADA PIRABUN: I am Jesada Pirabun. I am from
20 Thailand. Thank you my family and thank you everyone here.

21 (Applause.)

22 DIVINA VELASCO API: I am Divina Velasco Api. I am
23 from the Philippines and became an American citizen and so that
24 gave me an opportunity to be in the vast and enchanting land to
25 do so many things. I love the things flowing with goods and

1 services. I'm just overwhelmed. I've been here for six years,
2 but still I'm overwhelmed. I don't take things for granted. I
3 am really blessed to be an American citizen. God bless
4 America.

5 (Applause.)

6 THE COURT: Good to have you.

7 DONACIANO GARCIA REYNOSO: My name is Donaciano
8 Garcia, (speaking in Spanish).

9 (Applause.)

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For him, I'm his wife and we
11 are really proud to be here. I am so proud of him, my husband,
12 to become a citizen. We are so happy for you guys.
13 Congratulations.

14 Thank you for family members, friends. Thank you very
15 much for being here.

16 Congratulations to everyone.

17 THE COURT: Congratulations to you.

18 (Applause.)

19 DANTE VILLANUEVA RICAFORTE JR.: Good afternoon,
20 everyone. My name is Dante and this is my wife Fayne. We came
21 here both as nurses, and it is just overwhelming because during
22 all of the COVID time I just want to go back to the Philippines
23 because of the COVID and everything, but I would love to serve
24 the people of Wyoming and United States. It is very
25 sentimental because all the comments and everything. It is

1 just so hard for us, but thank you very much.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 FAYNE CONADERA RICAFORTE: Thank you very much. Thank
5 you and we love it here.

6 ORLANDO ESCARCEGA MONTES: Wow. Hello. My name is
7 Orlando Escarcega. I have been in the United States for a
8 while now. I can't really think of the number -- a few years.
9 I'm just really proud to finally be an American citizen. It
10 has been forever, you know.

11 But, yeah, thank you for everybody that showed up. I
12 know you don't know me, but still, thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHERRY MARIE HERNANDEZ TUAZON: My name is Cherry. So
15 I came here. I'm a nurse, so I've been here for six years and
16 it is just great. This has been a dream. And it took me a lot
17 of fears to be here, a lot of, like, debacles. There was a lot
18 of -- like, from the beginning because I came on a sponsorship
19 and during the COVID it is hard as well, but I'm just so
20 thankful that I was here. I was able to serve, and then, like,
21 being a nurse, like, the reason why we're here, but we like it.
22 This is just the place, like, opportunities, like, are endless,
23 like, like -- I cannot find words, but we're just so thankful.

24 My family, my children are there. My youngest son was
25 also born here. And we're just -- I'm just so happy for

1 everything that we have been through, like a lot, but this
2 country is just great. And thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 DENNIS DELFIN TUAZON: Afternoon to everybody. I am
6 his husband. It is a great honor to be here in America. It is
7 a dream come true. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 JORGE ANTONIO LICON: Hello. My name is Jorge from
11 Mexico. I've lived here for 17 years, so I'm appreciative for
12 all these opportunities. So this is one of my dreams. So I
13 like this country. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 PEDRO RODRIGUES RIVERA: Thank you everybody for
17 coming. My name is Pedro Rodriguez, and I've been over here
18 for 44 years. And I thank you.

19 THE COURT: Congratulations.

20 (Applause.)

21 JUANA ALTAMIRANO RODRIGUEZ: Hello, my name is Juana
22 Rodriguez -- Altamirano Rodriguez, and I just want to say thank
23 you to all these people that are here. I feel special on this
24 day, and I -- what I say, just thank you, and I'm happy that
25 I'm now -- I'm going to be able to vote.

1 (Applause.)

2 SABITA DEVKOTA: My name is Sabita. I'm from Nepal.
3 I have been here since 2015, and then I'm here with my husband
4 and then my small daughter. So I'm so thankful today to be a
5 U.S. citizen. Thank you so much.

6 THE COURT: Congratulations.

7 (Applause.)

8 MAYBEL GHANEM: Hi. My name is Maybel. I've been
9 visiting the United States since long time ago, and on
10 Christmas Eve, I met the love of my life, Alex, and here we go.
11 We got married, and I moved to the United States in 2018. I
12 have two beautiful kids, Yvonne and Gene.

13 And I would love to thank my brother and his family
14 and Nick, Maggie, Adrianna, and all my friends for coming here
15 and joining me in this special day. Thank you so much, and God
16 bless America.

17 THE COURT: Hear, hear.

18 (Applause.)

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you for your time and
20 thank you for your efforts.

21 Mr. Kubichek, I would recognize you on behalf of the
22 United States Attorney General for remarks.

23 MR. KUBICHEK: Well, this is a remarkable honor
24 that I have been privileged to participate in for a lot of
25 years, but it never ceases to touch me in ways that nothing

1 else in my life does.

2 As the young lady who quoted President Reagan's speech
3 recalled for us when he said, you know, there are Germans and
4 there are Irish people and French people, and you can never
5 really be a Frenchman unless you're a Frenchman, but you look
6 around, you are all now American citizens, and you don't look
7 anything alike. I mean, and that's how we roll here. And,
8 frankly, it is too late to turn back now, so we have to figure
9 it out.

10 And we are -- this upcoming Sunday, September 17th, we
11 will be 236 years old. And that's a pretty good run for a
12 society, the organizing principles of which are that we are
13 comprised of government by the people, for the people and of
14 the people, a society in which you all run the show, not some
15 king or monarch or authoritarian, of which there are way too
16 many in the world that -- some of you are here from places
17 where that's kind of the organizing principle.

18 So far we've managed to hang in, not without, you
19 know, a lot of tears and a lot of bloodshed periodically, but
20 we've made it through a civil war. We've fought for freedom in
21 other places. These gentlemen all represent a lot of our
22 efforts, sacrifices to help other citizens in other countries
23 maintain their freedom. And they all participate in this, as
24 do the Daughters of the American Revolution and the patriotic
25 organizations, because they remind us of how we started and how

1 we got here. And it wasn't -- you know, you've heard the
2 saying "freedom isn't free" -- well, damned straight it is not
3 free. It is hard. And these guys' colleagues, lots of them
4 have laid down their lives, voluntarily, to make this day
5 possible for all of us.

6 So as we honor the work you've done, we honor and
7 appreciate the sacrifices that these gentlemen represent. And
8 that's also why when the Court opens these ceremonies, he
9 begins with a recitation of just how much of our fellow
10 citizens and some noncitizens -- I believe somebody mentioned
11 they were in the Army before they were here, which is to say we
12 are blessed by so many people, even, who aren't citizens. But
13 we begin these ceremonies by recalling the number of our fellow
14 citizens who have defended our freedoms and lost their lives or
15 suffered grievous injury in the process.

16 Now, you all had to work to do this. First place, you
17 had to get here, which isn't always easy. You know, you can't
18 not read the newspaper and see the thousands of migrants
19 crossing horrible expanses of scary and terrorizing landscapes
20 in order to try to get into this country. And that's because
21 we offer something a lot of places don't.

22 We offer a sense of community and a certain sense of
23 security and sort of interests that we can depend on here. If
24 you -- one of the rights is the right to be left alone. Now,
25 we don't talk about that. We talk about the right to speak and

1 the right to vote and right to do this or that. But one of the
2 most precious rights is just the right to live your own life
3 and not have somebody in the government looking over your
4 shoulder every second. The most important freedom we have
5 sometimes is just the right to go out and do stuff and enjoy
6 your world, your kids, their schools, all of that, without
7 having to worry. And in a lot of countries in the world,
8 you're constantly worried: Did you cross a line? Did you do
9 something bad that you didn't know about? For the moment, 236
10 years in, we're still a country where you don't have to worry
11 about that so much.

12 Now, you all, as I said, worked hard to get here.
13 Most of us in this room didn't. You know, I was born just up
14 the street at the Banner Memorial Hospital back in 1952. I
15 didn't do anything special. You know, I showed up, and I'm
16 around. And here I am.

17 But you all had to get here and then you had to study
18 and take tests and get background examinations, all kind of
19 stuff to qualify, and sometimes -- you will never take this day
20 for granted, I'm pretty certain. But a lot of my fellow
21 birthers in here probably do often. You know, we take it as a
22 birthright. It sort of is, but we also take it for granted and
23 we sometimes don't appreciate how special it is. It is really
24 special.

25 So now that you're stuck with us, 'cause we're all now

1 part of the same family, there are, as you know, certain rights
2 that you accede to by taking your oath today. You have the
3 right to vote. You have the right to speak, the right to
4 travel.

5 And then you have certain obligations. Sometimes
6 Judge Skavdahl will send you a letter and tell you you have to
7 be down here to be on a jury. Okay. And you'll come down and
8 participate in this room in one of the most important aspects
9 of our democracy, and that is the administration of the justice
10 system.

11 You know, we sort of divide up responsibilities in
12 that area. The judge is the final interpreter of what the law
13 is. But when we have trials down here, Judge mentioned people
14 showing up here sometimes involuntarily, we have a process by
15 which we adjudicate whether they're guilty or innocent of
16 crimes charged against them. But the judge doesn't get to
17 decide that question; you all do. You know, we will have the
18 jury of 12 citizens plus a couple extras in case something goes
19 south. And they decide the facts. And we don't get to look
20 over your shoulder hardly at all.

21 And that's such an important part of our democracy
22 because it is one of those areas where you all decide, not
23 some, you know, bureaucrat or government official. The final
24 say comes to us as citizens. That's one of your
25 responsibilities.

1 You know, there are civic responsibilities that we all
2 have towards each other too. You don't have to agree with each
3 other on matters of religion or politics or any of that stuff.
4 A lot of us don't. Shoot, you know, this is -- because we have
5 different kinds of people with so many different kinds of
6 backgrounds, we're going to have a whole lot of different
7 points of view and you're going to hear them.

8 But to be a good citizen, you can't just start a
9 fistfight because somebody says something you don't agree with.
10 You can -- you should listen respectfully and make up your own
11 mind. And that's how we maintain our civil society is we
12 listen and we're tolerant of each other and respectful and then
13 we vote the way we want to vote.

14 The other part of it is, you know, voting is an
15 important part of our political society and our government. It
16 absolutely is. But another important part that we often
17 overlook is at the end of the day we're going to count the
18 votes and somebody is going to win. And it may or may not be
19 your guy. And if it isn't, part of being a good citizen is
20 saying, We will try again next time. So that's important.

21 And otherwise, since you're part of our community --
22 you know, it sounds like lots of you have been here a long time
23 so you're already doing this. You're already participating in
24 your kids' schools and your communities and all of that.
25 That's really important. And I always say, you know, don't

1 give up where you came from when you're here because that
2 culture that you grew up in enriches us. It expands our
3 horizons and our understanding of the world in ways that you
4 can help us do, because, as I said, you know, I've been here in
5 the United States. I hardly ever have gotten out. My
6 perspectives are, therefore, not nearly as enriched as some of
7 yours. And you share those with us and you make us better.

8 So thank you. As the President said in his video so
9 well, you really honor us by the choice, and I -- you know,
10 hopefully we keep doing this, keep reinvigorating our country
11 with new blood, new perspective, new citizens, and with a
12 little bit of luck, you know, maybe we'll make it another 236
13 years. We can hope so.

14 But it is -- as somebody else said, freedom isn't
15 free; it is work. It is work every day, and all of us have a
16 responsibility to keep it going because if we don't, it will
17 fall apart. So keep that in mind. Thank you for honoring us
18 and for being here today.

19 Judge, I will quote Chief Brodie in *Jaws*: *Maybe need*
20 *a bigger boat*. I don't know.

21 THE COURT: Hear, hear.

22 MR. KUBICHEK: Thank you all.

23 (Applause.)

24 THE COURT: Well, I would echo Mr. Kubichek's
25 reflection as to the statements by you, the emotion, the

1 passion, the dedication that you have shown and committed to
2 and expressed today in getting to where you are -- 55 years, 45
3 years, service in this country's military -- congratulations to
4 you, your families and friends.

5 The importance and significance of this event to you
6 and your family and friends cannot be overstated. And like
7 many, including myself, you've worked hard to get here and done
8 it the right way. Your hard work and dedication to your
9 families and this country does not go unnoticed.

10 No person or country or government is perfect. The
11 United States, I hate to inform you, is no different. The
12 exception is that we were forged by immigrants who had
13 experienced tyranny, feudalism and oppression by their
14 governments and were willing to sacrifice, and many did
15 sacrifice it all for the betterment of their families and all
16 mankind.

17 One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence
18 died as a ward of the state after coming to this country as a
19 rich and successful individual.

20 Another individual had to consent to General
21 Washington to burn down his house because the British had
22 occupied it.

23 They gave up all those things. These men and women
24 formed a government unlike any other, one designed to serve the
25 people, not one where the people served the government.

1 One of the things that goes on today is there's a lot
2 of what I would classify as acrimony and vitriol. Too many
3 social media platforms and everything else, probably. But lest
4 we think that this is something that's incapable of continuing
5 on for another 236 years, be mindful of the fact that sitting
6 Vice President Aaron Burr shot and killed former Secretary of
7 State Hamilton many, many years ago, I believe in 1804, and the
8 reality is that there are always going to be conflicts. The
9 question is is that conflict going to destroy us or unite us,
10 and I suggest it can unite us.

11 As this imperfect experiment closes in on 236 years of
12 existence, hopefully we can collectively recognize our failings
13 or seek to improve who we are as people and a country, because
14 we the people give the government its power to improve or
15 change. We must all participate, vote, sit on juries, give
16 your input, dial those phone numbers, send those emails,
17 whatever it takes, lest we stand silent and fail to exercise
18 our rights and support our Constitution and recognize it is we
19 the people who must exercise, support and defend our rights, we
20 run the risk of extinction just like any other government.

21 Our Constitution is simply a paper document. Without
22 people participating, believing in it and defending it, it is
23 rendered useless.

24 Note the Constitution was written to ensure those in
25 the minority retained the same rights as those in the majority.

1 Our Constitution was crafted not based upon universal ideology,
2 but, rather, a compromise, an appreciation that no singular
3 idea or system was superior, but rather an amalgamation of
4 views and systems that have come together to provide a
5 structure that has ensured freedom and endured civil war, two
6 world wars, and 20 years ago today a violent terrorist attack
7 we must never forget. Let's be reminded.

8 (Moment of silence.)

9 (Video presentation.)

10 THE COURT: This is the greatest nation on earth and
11 to remain so -- it is not because we all think and believe the
12 same, but, rather, because we respect each other's rights,
13 diversity and beliefs which allows we the people to govern
14 ourselves. You are now part of us, the richly woven fabric of
15 the United States. May we never forget the rights and
16 privileges we enjoy exist only because of those who forged this
17 country, believed in it and valued it more than their own self
18 interest. May we always honor our commitment to each other
19 above self, united to form a more perfect union, and may it
20 always be that way. And may God continue to bless this
21 incredible United States of America. Congratulations.

22 (Applause.)

23 THE COURT: Again, congratulations to you and your
24 family and friends, and thank you to the participants today for
25 not only being here today, but for giving us the freedoms and

1 things we can enjoy.

2 We will stand in recess.

3 (Proceedings concluded 4:46 p.m., September 11, 2023.)

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I, JANET DAVIS, Federal Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Diplomat 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 30th day of October, 2023.

/s/ Janet Davis

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