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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:

March 16, 2015
1:30 p.m.

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

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Federal Courthouse
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Petitioners.

TRANSCRIPT OF CEREMONIAL PROCEEDINGS
HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION
BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL
Chief United States District Judge, Presiding
THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON
United States District Judge
THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
Chief United States Magistrate Judge

APPEARANCES:

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Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
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1 (Proceedings commenced 1:30 p.m., March 16, 2015.)

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

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

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

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Nomundari McCaughan.

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

18 PETITIONER MCCAUGHAN: Yes.

19 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Luz Martinez.

20 PETITIONER MARTINEZ: Yes.

21 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Charles Ofuyo.

22 PETITIONER OFUYO: Yes.

23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Killian Muli.

24 PETITIONER MULI: Yes.

25 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Sansanee Eckman.

1 PETITIONER ECKMAN: Yes.

2 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Niru Pokharel.

3 PETITIONER POKHAREL: Yes.

4 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Arsenio Frausto.

5 MR. LIMAS: Limas.

6 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Limas? Thank you.

7 Luzviminda Hofer.

8 MS. HOFER: Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (Applause.)

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

6 Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

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

12 (Star-Spangled Banner performance.)

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

15 (Video message played.)

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

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

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

1 citizens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Gertsch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Yes.

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

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

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

25 So Governor Geringer, thank you very much for joining

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (Applause.)

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

20 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Yes.

21 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Good for you.

22 GOVERNOR GERINGER: I missed two.

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

25 GOVERNOR GERINGER: Are you smarter than a fifth

1 grader?

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

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

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

10 (Performance.)

11 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

1 supported these new American citizens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Rankin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (Applause.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

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

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

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

18 Again, today, you bless us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (Applause.)

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

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

19 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

7 JUDGE JOHNSON: No, Chief. Thank you.

8 MAGISTRATE RANKIN: Nothing further. Thank you.

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

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

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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 Diplomat Reporter and Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings contained herein on the aforementioned subject on the date herein set forth, and that the foregoing pages constitute a full, true and correct transcript.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2015.

Janet Davis

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