

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
March 18, 2019
10:05 a.m.
East High School

BHUSAN THAPALIYA, APSARA THAPALIYA,
AZUCENA HARVEY, DIANA SPROSTY,
LI DOUGLAS, XUEQUN FU, JIANTING ZHU,
DANIEL ZHU, MARIA DURAN,
MORGANE VANDENDOREN, LECIA JIMENEZ,
NIDIA MARTINEZ, MARIA SAN JUAN-ANDRETTA,
MINDY GALKA, ROBERT WIJAYA, FARHAD IRANI,
WENDY CONSOLIVER, OLGA MENDENHALL,
JAMES KIM, ARNEL ALCOBER, NYASHA MUSHATI,
GEORGIOS ZYMPAS, LEDOUX OKAMBA, SAAD ABUBAKAR,

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 ALAN B. JOHNSON
United States District Judge
THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN
Chief United States Magistrate Judge
THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN D. PARKER
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

APPEARANCES:

For the United States: JEREMY GROSS
Assistant United States Attorney
DISTRICT OF WYOMING
2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 4000
P.O. Box 668
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0668

Court Reporter: MRS. JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR, CRR
Federal Official Court Reporter
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
(307) 314-2356

(Proceedings commenced 1:20 p.m., March 18, 2019.)

(Presentation of colors.)

(National Anthem.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Please be seated.

Welcome to everyone. A special thank you to Principal Mirich for accommodating the total court in East High School. Special thank you to the students here present.

The East High ROTC did such a nice job posting the colors. Let's thank both the ROTC and the band -- or the choir.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I'd also like to recognize and thank the representative of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Office from Denver. Maybe we could have the -- there you are. Thank you very much for taking your time and working with our soon-to-be naturalized citizens to help them through this lengthy process. Thank you very much.

CISO REPRESENTATIVE: You're welcome.

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Normally in federal court we prohibit the use of cameras. While we're in the school through the gracious hosting of East High, I would like to put the notice on the record that the general order prohibiting cameras in the courtroom is suspended for purposes of this ceremony.

I also would like to welcome our newest service

organization to the -- this naturalization ceremony, the League of Women Voters. I think the League is here, along with our other patriotic organizations. I see them over there. Thank you very much for reaching out to the federal courts, expressing your interest to attend the naturalization and considering how your organization might work into the ceremony going forward.

Our other service organizations and patriotic organizations will play a role later in the ceremony providing our new citizens with brochures, information, flags. I'd like to recognize those patriotic organizations so that I don't forget to do so at the appropriate time when they pass out the material that they have for the new citizens.

We have the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, the Colonial Dames of America, the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars 1881 Auxiliary, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars 4343 Auxiliary, as well as I have mentioned the Cheyenne League of Women Voters.

At this time I would invite our Assistant U.S. Attorney, Jeremy Gross, to make the motion for the administration of the oath to our soon-to-be new citizens.

Thank you, and welcome.

MR. GROSS: Thank you, Your Honor. Can everyone hear me?

Well, may it please the Court. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jeremy Gross. I am an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, and I'm here today on behalf of the United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, Mark Klaassen, as well as the Attorney General for the United States, William Barr.

It is my privilege, Your Honor, to introduce the Court to the following individuals who appear in person today for a hearing on their petitions for naturalization as United States citizens. I see we switched seats here so let me get this correct here: Apsara Thapaliya, native and former inhabitant of Nepal; Bhusan Thapaliya, a native and former inhabitant of Nepal; Azucena Harvey, a native and former inhabitant of the Philippines; Diana Sprosty, native and former inhabitant of Colombia; Li Douglas, native and former inhabitant of China; Xuequn Fu, native and former inhabitant of Canada; Jianting Zhu, native and former inhabitant of Canada; Daniel Zhu, native and former inhabitant of Canada; Maria Duran, native and former inhabitant of Mexico; Morgane Vendendoren, native and former inhabitant of Belgium; Lecia Jimenez, native and former inhabitant of the Philippines; Nidia Martinez, native and former inhabitant of Mexico; Maria San Juan-Andretta, native and former inhabitant of the Philippines; Mindy Galka, native and former inhabitant of China; Robert Wijaya, native and former inhabitant of Indonesia; Farhad Irani, native and former

inhabitant of India; Wendy Consoliver, native and former inhabitant of El Salvador; Olga Mendenhall, native and former inhabitant of Ukraine; James Kim, native and former inhabitant of South Korea; Arnel Alcober, native and former inhabitant of the Philippines; Nyasha Mushati, native and former inhabitant of Zimbabwe; Georgios Zympas, native and former inhabitant of Greece; Ledoux Okamba, native and former inhabitant of Congo; and Saad Abubakar, native and former inhabitant of Nigeria.

Your Honor, each of these individuals have been interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner of the United States Immigration and Citizenship Services Office who has completed a background check and character investigation. Immigration Services indicates each of these individuals has met all of the requirements for naturalization and are each well-qualified candidates for United States citizenship.

On behalf of myself, for United States citizenship, thank you all for being here. It is a very special occasion, and we all take it very seriously.

At this time it is my distinct honor to move that the Court approve these petitions for United States citizenship upon administering the oath.

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Mr. Gross.

At this time I'll be rising. I would ask my fellow Judges to rise as well as our new citizens for the

administration of the oath. If you wish to follow along so that you -- it doesn't all just appear as a jumble, the oath is on the back of the program. And I do encourage you to take a look through that oath and consider the pledges that these new citizens are about to make.

Please rise.

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

Welcome. Let's welcome our new citizens.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: At this time please rise and join all of us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: At this time I'm very pleased to introduce our guest speaker. This time we reached out to a newly naturalized citizen. She was -- she became a citizen November 2017 in a ceremony at another school here in Cheyenne.

We're pleased to welcome Paty Gierau. Paty was born in San Paulo, Brazil. She was raised and educated in Brazil and earned a degree in 2005 in Nutrition from the Catholic University of Campanos. She specializes in nutritional management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, et al. She had a successful practice in San Paulo, and I suspect she's brought that practice with her here to Wyoming.

She moved to Wyoming in 2012 at the urging of her then fiance, soon-to-be husband, Senator Mike Gierau who lives in Jackson. Paty, along with her two children, Johnny and Malu, became U.S. citizens last November -- actually, I guess it was a year ago last November. Paty, along with her family, reside in Jackson.

Paty, if you would like to step up.

Welcome. It doesn't seem that long ago when I met you at one of our elementary schools. I'm so pleased that you and your other half -- I think you're probably the better half, knowing Mike -- so pleased to have you here to provide some comments for our new citizens as well as some information to students and teachers who -- and family members who join us today.

MRS. GIERAU: Good morning, everyone. I want to start my speech. Thank you, Honorable Judge Freudenthal, for the opportunity to come here and share with you all my journey to become an American citizen.

Thank you to all of the authorities and families and friends here today with us to participate and to be part of the lives at this very important moment of the newest citizenship -- citizens.

I'm so proud to be among one of the first from this greatest state to call you my fellow Americans. Unlike many people, I never had the dream to move to another country. I'm the third kid of a family of four, middle-class Brazilian family, a traditional Brazilian family. Like all Brazilian family, we are descendants from other countries.

I grow up at least with my mom and dad saying, You need to be proud of our nationality, fulfill our obligations as a citizen and work to protect our rights for the best of our country and the people.

But life is a magical pathway where on a blink of the eyes all could change. Since 2005 everything has changed. In 2010 I met a sweetheart American, Wyomingite, a descendent of German-Austrian parents, and we fell in love. He asked me to be married with him and move to America, and with my two kids, Malu and Johnny, to start a family.

Guess what? I said I do. And I never regretted my

decision. Like with children back in the 1500s when they start immigrating to America looking for freedom and opportunity; like my Italian grandma when she moved from Italy to Portugal in marriage to my grandpa and have a kid, my dad, and move to Brazil looking for better life with her family, I moved to America. I married my husband, and we start a beautiful Brazilian-American family.

My kids and I work hard to learn all we can to adapt to the new country and community, and my husband turned this transition very loving and interesting, making us very welcome in American and Wyoming. Like you, we started the journey to be permanent residents and citizenship -- citizens.

Many times during this journey I felt nervous thinking about what my mom and dad had taught me about being a citizen, but my husband and friends make me understand moving to a different country did not mean give up honor, values and culture. No, quite the opposite. You will bring all to the country where you living. And you will learn different values and culture, being a part of the country and community where you are.

Other thing make me proud and happy to be an American was the fact that there's something very unique in this country. America born of immigrants, that's what America is, a wonderful mix of people and cultures, values and dreams, blended with American heritage to build a strong nation with

liberty and justice for all.

I'm proud of being an American, and I feel grateful and blessed since I took the citizenship oath. Like me, you have raised your hand to sworn a sacred oath to be part of this nation, this culture, to fulfill your obligations as a citizen, to share the American dreams and give your best for the best of America.

You are men and women from different countries and cultures around the world. Maybe you do not look alike. Maybe you don't worship the same way. But here we are together, surrounded by authorities and the very documents whose values bind us together as one people, one nation under God, indivisible for the United States of America.

Now, you, like me, know in your hearts what mean "We the People." Now you know what means be an American. You know we are an important piece of American's present and future history.

The process to be a citizen is not done. There's still a lot of important and good work to do after today, demanding and rewarding tasks, and that is the meaning of being an active citizen. As American citizen, we have rights and responsibilities, and that's why today's not the final step in your journey. Citizenship has meanings that are different and more subtle than legal permission to live in America. It is defining the relationship to this country; thus, a

consciousness of nationalism and personal responsibility -- these words are hard for me. Sorry.

Today you are an American. And you will need to follow the laws. You will be involved with your community. You will speak up for what you believe in. You will vote, to exercise the rights that are now yours, but to stand up for the rights of others. And I'm sure you will meet all those expectations, and you will be a good American.

You will set a good example for all of us because you know how precious this thing are. It is not something to take for granted. It is something to cherish and to fight for.

Thank you all. My God bless you and may God bless America.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you so much, Paty. I feel like almost no one else needs to speak. But we have some more work to do and celebration to be had, but let's start with presenting the certificates to our new citizens.

We have a message from the President at this time.

(President's message.)

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: I would invite the new citizens to just turn around. We have some certificates and American materials to be presented to you from our service organizations, some welcome letters from our delegation.

For our audience, I wanted to make sure I acknowledged and thanked the representatives from our national delegation. We have representatives from Senator Enzi's office, from Senator Barrasso's office and Representative Cheney's office.

And, as a special treat, our state senator Mike Gierau and his wife Paty who we heard from earlier are passing out some Wyoming -- United States pins.

If we have all the material handed out, we can welcome our new citizens back up here and ask the East High Concert Choir to join us again on their risers for the performance of "Simple Gifts. "

("Simple Gifts" performance.)

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you again to the East High Concert Choir under the direction of LaDonna Backman. Earlier we had the pleasure of listening to the East High Singers, again under the direction of LaDonna.

The posting of the colors was under the direction of Colonel Rod Peoples.

And as another thank you, I'd like to express our appreciation, again, to Principal Mirich for welcoming the federal court into the East High building.

At this time I know my colleagues are anxious to welcome and address the new citizens. I'd like to start with our Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Casey Parker.

JUDGE PARKER: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. Thank you East High School for hosting us and allowing your school to share in the success of our U.S. citizens.

I want to say thank you to all of those who supported these individuals and helped them in their endeavor to become United States citizens.

Most importantly, congratulations to each of you in becoming American citizens and allowing us to be part of it. Normally I like to talk about the oath you took and some of the statements you are to make, the statements that our U.S. President's made, the statements our Senators have made and some of the brave members of our military.

I would also like to talk about the freedoms you may gain as a U.S. citizen: The freedom to choose your path in life, to form and express opinions, to educate yourself, to be part of the decision making, to practice the religion of your choosing.

But today I wanted to bring it a little closer to home. In the news recently the University of Wyoming's new slogan has been a popular expression: "The world needs more cowboys." It was challenged as racist and sexist, yet the University saw past that and pushed forward. Not only did it garner the attention they wanted, but it is a message of spirit, inclusivity and even one of roles.

The World Needs More Cowboys, let me recite for you

the campaign: Precious curiosity, whatever happened to that? When did we stop thinking of new questions and daring to chase down their answers? Should we blindly follow predetermined paths when they don't lead us to anything new? Should we really be on autopilot when there's still so much to explore off the beaten trail?

The world needs more wonder, more outside thinkers hungry for a challenge. The world needs more cowboys, and not just the kind that sweep you off your feet and ride off into the sunset. Ours are diverse cowboys that come in every sex, shape, color and creed. They come from Wyoming, Montana, Delaware and Nigeria.

Because it is not what you are that makes you a cowboy or a cowgirl, but who you are. It is a shared spirit. It is the spirit of the underdog; the kind of spirit that longs for something to prove; the kind that emboldens those who express it to stand on the perimeter and howl into the unknown with unbendable optimism. The world needs more people to pick up the torch of progress and fearlessly venture onwards. The world needs more cowboys.

You as our newest U.S. citizens are exactly the type of cowboys this world needs. To endure this process and follow your dreams, you left the beaten trail. You faced down this new challenge. You had to have the spirit. You had to be emboldened, and you fearlessly ventured onward.

So not only do we thank you -- or introduce you today as our newest U.S. citizens, but we also introduce you today as our new Wyoming U.S. cowboys.

I hope for the people here today the ceremony reminds us that all the United States was built on diversity. The diversity these citizens bring here today makes us a stronger nation. Our tolerance to allow people the freedom to express their views of religion, their beliefs is the underpinnings of the strength of our nation, something these new citizens worked so hard to attain. If we allow our tolerance to wane, so will our strength as a nation.

So again, congratulations to all of you to the dedication of this process and to a great future to come for all of you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Chief Judge Parker.

Then let's turn to the other end of the table to another chief judge, Chief Magistrate Judge Rankin.

JUDGE RANKIN: Thank you, Judge Freudenthal. I just want to echo the appreciation to East High School, faculty, staff, and it is especially nice to see students here. These are really happy moments for us on the bench. Not often do we get to see family and friends and flags waving. It is really a special day. And I can see the smiles on our new citizens' faces as well. They've endured a lot, I'm sure.

But congratulations to each of you and welcome. My remarks will pale in comparison to what we heard from Paty a moment ago, but thank you, by the way, for those remarks.

But I want to just reiterate a couple of things and hopefully leave you with a nugget or two to take with you as new citizens.

A couple of words about the oath that you just took. And you might find it interesting to know that the oath has been given since 1778, and it was given at Valley Forge during the American Revolutionary War, so for now some 240-plus years you and your fellow Americans have been given and taken the same oath. So it is a long oath, but it is also an oath that is very historical in our country's history.

But what a long road I know it has been for all of you and your families. I'm sure it has also been a struggle at times: Leaving your homeland, saying good-bye to beloved family and friends, traveling to this country, finding a job, adjusting to a new culture and a new way of life.

But the good news for all of us is the best of your culture and way of life is the best of ours, and your traditions not only enrich your family, but they enrich all of America. Always remember that this country was founded on the diversity of many tribes, cultures and countries, and we have been blessed by the rich culture and traditions of so many people like you and those that came before you. America is a

combination of the best of everyone who has come here. This great country depends on new citizens such as you to learn, to grow. And our survival depends on the values of diversity, tolerance, dignity and respect that we live by and teach each other.

Our very first president, George Washington, recognized the importance of immigrants to our land, not just the rich and high-ranking newcomer, quote, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions whom we shall welcome to a participation in all our rights and privileges, end quote.

Being a United States citizen of course also means that you are free. The Constitution and laws of this country are designed to protect your freedom. You are free to think on your own and form your own opinions. And you may voice those opinions whether many people or few people agree with you. You are free to work where you want to work, to read what you want to read, to say what you want to say, and you're free to believe what you want to believe, to openly practice any religion or to practice no religion at all. There is no single way to think or believe as an American.

As a citizen of the United States, you are free to follow your own path, wherever it may lead you. It is also important to realize that you're doing more today than just completing a legal process. You are making a lifelong promise

to uphold the laws and the values of what make America what it is. That promise comes with great privileges of American citizenship, and it also comes with great responsibilities.

The freedom of democracy comes with the responsibility to participate in the Democratic process by voting, not casually or carelessly, but in a way that is thoughtful and informed.

You have a responsibility to educate yourself so you can make good choices for yourself, your family and the country that is now your country. This democracy so hard fought for only works when its people participate fully by helping to choose who will govern us all and by taking that process seriously.

The freedom of democracy also carries a responsibility to your community and your country. You must be willing to serve this country as you can. Use your talents. Be active in your community. Give back to your new country through civic participation and service. Help someone who needs a leg up. Your new country, our country, will continue to thrive if we care about our fellow citizens as human beings.

Again, congratulations and welcome. You have worked incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I speak for your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are grateful to have you.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Chief Judge Rankin.
Now I'm happy to turn the remarks over to Judge Johnson.

JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, I, too, am very pleased to share this important moment with the scholar citizens of East High School and Principal Mirich as we honor 24 newly nationalized fellow citizens today.

This ceremony represents the culmination of the life goals and plans that each of the new citizens brought with them when they entered the United States of America as either permanent residents or holders of green cards. Each new citizen has a story to tell behind their very personal decision to leave their birth homes, often in distant places in the world, to begin a new life in America.

Often that decision may involve leaving behind family, struggling to learn a difficult language and maintaining employment and developing new relationships in this busy, competitive nation.

Most of us cannot conceive of the commitment, courage and grit represented here by each petitioner as they have taken the oath, completing their path to becoming a citizen of the United States of America. Congratulations to each of you for this achievement.

And thanks and congratulations go to the family and friends who are here today representing many who are in the

audience for their support, sacrifice and encouragement that has helped to make this day possible.

I think a little applause would be appropriate.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: In the brief time I have left to speak to you, I would share a few thoughts about our duty as citizens and Americans during disturbing and distressing times.

Last Friday the world was shocked and saddened by the callous and cowardly murder of 50 worshippers at a mosque in Christ Church, New Zealand. That group of worshippers were largely made up of a group of people who had come to New Zealand seeking a place where they could peacefully practice their religion.

That murderer entered that special sanctuary with a semiautomatic weapon and a camera to record the criminal violence he intended to inflict upon helpless human beings. Especially troubling, we have learned that the killer took much of his motivation for his evil act from similar events in the United States of America.

We have seen this pattern of hate expressed in synagogues in Philadelphia, in schools like this one, in mosques and churches; all places in this nation where people congregate to learn and to pray. These acts are often perpetrated against the most vulnerable and the minorities of this nation.

What can we do? What should we do? I take these suggestions from Pulitzer Prize winner John Meham in his book *The Soul of America*.

The history of how our shared voting rights have been won and lost for minorities, won again and remain in the forefront of contests in the courts of our land should remind us of the importance of each citizen's obligation to participate in the political process.

Theodore Roosevelt declared, "The first duty of an American citizen is" -- and I would note when he made this speech, before the 19th Amendment and the right of women secured to vote in this country early in the 20th century. He says, "The first duty of an American citizen is that she," and I add the S," shall work in politics. The second duty is that she shall do that work in a practical manner. And third is that it shall be done in accordance with the highest principles of honor and justice."

Mecham then suggests that those who chose not to participate in the political process are cutting themselves off from the great contests and the issues of the day. Think about the good work for gun control that the scholar victims at Southland High School had done after their classmates were senselessly murdered in their precious school.

In our discussions with others who differ in their opinions, one should remember to listen with respect.

Discussion is not a zero-sum warfare, but provides opportunity to achieve understanding and in politics can work towards compromise.

Learning what people are thinking and saying is the best way to review one's own ideas. Wisdom generally comes from a free exchange of ideas. Former President Harry Truman wrote, "The dictators of the world say that if you tell a lie often enough, why, people will believe it." People are often too locked into their vision of the world to search for the true facts with an open mind. Seek a balance in your point of view. Often neither side to an issue has a monopoly on the truth. Each citizen has an obligation to study and reflect on events of our common history and how those events have evolved and are influencing today's world.

I hope for each new citizen and for each of our East High Thunderbirds that you might share the vision of John Winthrop, a Puritan minister, who spoke of a New Jerusalem as his vision of the America. President Ronald Reagan took that theme and spoke of the shining city. He later declared what he meant by that reference, but in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity; and if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will

and the heart to get here.

That's how I saw it. And still see it. She is still a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom, for all the pilgrims in all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness toward home.

My wish for all of you is that America is that shining city; that each will live in the arena, speaking up for justice for all.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: Thank you, Judge Johnson.

I, too, am delighted to welcome each of you as new American citizens. You're all neighbors and friends. These 24 individuals who took the oath today come from three Wyoming communities: Cheyenne, Laramie and Rawlins. As I say, they are our friends, neighbors and citizens.

Congratulations. And thank you for being part of this wonderful ceremony. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful occasion.

I was particularly taken after the oath was administered by the youngsters that had stood up from the front row and were literally jumping up and down out of excitement for family and friends who are now American citizens.

The oath is no easy oath. It asks our new citizens to essentially turn their back on their countries of birth. That's something that takes courage, dedication and work,

something that's not easily done, as we heard from Paty today in her wonderful speech. She followed her heart to come here, to marry her husband. But her heart, just like the hearts of all our new citizens, was big enough to embrace America, was big enough for her to say, I love my country of birth and my heritage and my culture and I will never turn my back on those. I will bring them to America to benefit all of us, and my heart is big enough to embrace America and American citizens.

And as American citizens, each of you should know stepping off of the stage and into the communities of Wyoming or Laramie, into D.C., or any other place that your life might find you, that you are equal in dignity and rights to any other American citizen, whether it is the President, a U.S. Senator or Representative, a judge. Whatever position, we are all equal in rights and dignity.

All of us, either individually or through our forefathers, came to this country, unless we're descended from Native Americans. So we all have that history of immigration as a history that calls to us. We descended from people who left, as you all have, their countries of birth and established new lives here. Whether it is the individuals that you see here today, people like Paty, or fathers, mothers, grandfathers or grandmothers; they all journeyed here in hope of a better life, or, sadly, were brought here against their will.

But no matter how their life journey started, once

here they pursued their dreams of freedom and opportunity and have contributed to the growth, history and future of this country.

A country such as America is only as good as its citizens. Our citizens are wonderfully diverse and they make a diverse nation. But they come here to make a future for themselves and a future for their families and a future for all of us. They're bringing their culture and their ways of doing things. They're enriching our lives by their traditions and practices. By -- and they come here understanding that our tradition, culture and our future is dependent upon protecting and defending the rights of everyone here. Because if we protect and defend the rights of our fellow citizens, we are protecting and defending our own rights as well.

At these ceremonies I always mention Felix Frankfurter, Supreme Court Justice. He came to this country from Austria in 1894. When he was 12 years old he had become a naturalized citizen, and again, ultimately his path took him to the United States Supreme Court as a justice on that court. Justice Frankfurter stated that, quote, "In this country the highest office is citizen."

You have now assumed that high office. That office, like my office, has rights and -- but it has duties. You have the duty to be informed; the duty to vote; the duty to participate, as my fellow colleagues have said, in the

political process; the duty to serve on a jury or grand jury; and, yes, the duty to pay taxes. We're coming up on that tax day here shortly.

But for me, I think the most important duty is the duty to work to make this country, the United States of America, the country that you hoped to find when you got here and the country that you want it to be.

Please take some time today to welcome those sitting on your right and left as new citizens.

I would also like to mention, so that I don't forget, that we are hosting a reception in honor of our new citizens. I believe it will be up here. And so please join us at that reception.

I believe that the refreshments for the reception, even though I said we were hosting it, really it is hosted by the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century and the Daughters of the American Revolution. I would like to thank them for that -- for the refreshments at the reception and for East High, again, for making this ceremony possible.

I'd also like to thank my judicial assistant, Kellie Erickson, who works so hard to have these ceremonies take place outside the courthouse. The courthouse is a wonderful place, but in some respects, like America when you got here, it is somewhat of a foreign country.

So it is particularly nice to be here at East High

where my oldest daughter went to school. I mentioned the East High Band because it just flows out of my mouth. She was a member of the East High Band, although we had the performances by the East High Singers and the East High Concert Choir. So thank you again.

I hope you remember everything or at least some of what was said here today. And always remember that each of you is a part of the future of this great country. Make it the best country in the world. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

JUDGE FREUDENTHAL: With that, having no further business to come before the Court, we're adjourned.

Again, please join us for the reception to welcome our new citizens and our new Wyoming cowboys.

(Applause.)

(Proceedings concluded 2:26 p.m., March 18, 2019.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 18th day of July, 2019.

/s/ Janet Davis

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