

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

In the Matter of the Naturalization
and Granting of United States
Citizenship to:

MIGUEL ESTEBAN LIRA GARCIA,
DAVID JAMES CADENHEAD,
LEOFREDI ZARATE, OLESYA VIKTOROVNA,
ROMANA ANDERSON,
CHARLOTTE-MARIE LOUISE BAPTISTE,
DEBRA LOU WILDE, BRADLEY REED WILDE,
ANGELA COCHRAN,
LUSELIA MENDOZA BORUNDA,
ANNA VAN OOSTEROM FINK,
GEMMA TRIBUTO GUSHURST,
YELENA IVANOVNA PIRTLE,
CARMEN ALVAREZ de MOLINA,
MY HANH THI NGUYEN,
DRAGAN CICVARIC, FRANCISCO PEREZ,
TIJANA NIKOLIC, RUI ZOU PALMORE,
MARIA TERESA JIMINEZ MILLAN,
MALLORY MIGNOT, MANSOOR SYED AHMED,

MAY 14, 2012
3:37 P.M. - 4:29 P.M.

EWING T. KERR
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

CASPER, WYOMING

Petitioners.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
BEFORE THE HONORABLE SCOTT W. SKAVDAHL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government:

Todd Shugart
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Reported By:

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1 **(The proceedings commence at 3:37 p.m.)**

2 **THE CLERK:** Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. The
3 United States District Court for the District of Wyoming is now
4 in session, the Honorable Scott W. Skavdahl presiding. God
5 save 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 for this naturalization
9 ceremony. The Court will suspend the local rules on cameras
10 and recording devices. I would, however, ask that if anyone
11 has a cell phone, please turn it to "silent" at this time.

12 It has been a tradition in these ceremonies granting
13 citizenship to new citizens to recognize those citizens and
14 families who have paid the ultimate price in defending what so
15 many in this world seek: The freedoms and benefits of becoming
16 a United States or being a United States citizen.

17 As of today's date, 6,449 American men and women have
18 been killed in action while involved in military operations in
19 Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Iraq, Operation
20 Iraqi Freedom. In addition, 48,083 United States citizens have
21 been wounded in action in these military operations.

22 Let us take a moment of silence and recognize those
23 American heros and their families whose sacrifice cannot be
24 measured and loss will never be recovered.

25 (Silence)

1 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

2 The United States District Court for the District of
3 Wyoming is in special session for the naturalization of foreign
4 nationals to be U.S. citizens. It is with great honor, pride
5 and privilege that I am able to conduct this ceremony today,
6 inducting 22 new United States citizens. The federal district
7 Court to Wyoming, including Chief Judge Freudenthal,
8 Judge Johnson and Judge Brimmer, extend their congratulations
9 to you, your family and friends.

10 I would, at this time, ask the clerk of court to call
11 the role of the prospective new U.S. citizens. If you could
12 please stand when your name is called.

13 **THE CLERK:** Miguel Esteban Lira Garcia. David James
14 Cadenhead. Leofredi Zarate. Olesya Viktorovna Madrid. Romana
15 Anderson. Charlott-Marie Louise Baptiste. Debra Lou Wilde.
16 Bradley Reed Wilde. Angela Cochran. Luselia Mendoza Borunda.
17 Anna Van Oosterom Fink. Gemma Tributo Gushurst. Yelena
18 Ivanovna Pirtle. Carmen Alvarez de Molina. My Hanh Thi
19 Nguyen. Dragan Cicvaric. Francisco Perez. Tijana Nikolic.
20 Rui Zou Palmore. Maria Teresa Jiminez Millan. Mallory Mignot
21 and Mansoor Syed Ahmed.

22 **THE COURT:** Thank you and welcome. You may please
23 seated.

24 At this time, I would recognize Mr. Todd Shugart,
25 representing the Attorney General of the United States,

1 Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming.

2 Mr. Shugart, do you have a petition?

3 **MR. SHUGART:** I do, Your Honor. I believe there are
4 24 (sic) petitioners here before you today; and on behalf of
5 the Attorney General of the United States, at this time I would
6 make a motion for petition for naturalization of these fine
7 folks, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** Very well. Thank you, Mr. Shugart.

9 On the petition of the United States, the Court grants
10 their motion and grants the order allowing these petitioners to
11 become citizens of the United States of America.

12 At this time I would ask if Colonel Schmotzer with the
13 Natrona County High School Color Guard would please order the
14 posting of the Color Guard.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please stand.

16 (Presentation of colors by NCHS JROTC Color Guard.)

17 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Colonel.

18 Fellow citizens, it is our obligation to show our
19 allegiance to this country at this time by making our pledge of
20 allegiance and then remain standing for the playing of our
21 national anthem.

22 (Pledge of Allegiance of the United States recited;
23 Star-Spangled Banner played.)

24 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Colonel Schmotzer. If you
25 would please retire the colors.

1 (Colors retired.)

2 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Colonel, for your
3 participation.

4 At this time you may be seated, ladies and gentlemen.
5 Mr. Cohee, there are six additional -- very well.

6 Our newest U.S. citizens, if I could please have you
7 stand and face me and raise your right hand, I would now at
8 this time administer your oath. If you would please repeat
9 after me. I hereby declare on oath or affirm --

10 **THE PETITIONERS:** I hereby declare on oath or
11 affirm --

12 **THE COURT:** -- that I absolutely and entirely --

13 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- that I absolutely and entirely --

14 **THE COURT:** -- renounce and abjure --

15 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- renounce and abjure --

16 **THE COURT:** -- all allegiance and fidelity --

17 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- all allegiance and fidelity --

18 **THE COURT:** -- to any foreign prince or potentate --

19 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- to any foreign prince or

20 potentate --

21 **THE COURT:** -- state or sovereignty --

22 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- state or sovereignty --

23 **THE COURT:** -- of whom or which I have --

24 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- of whom or which I have --

25 **THE COURT:** -- heretofore been a subject or citizen;

1 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- heretofore been a subject or
2 citizen;

3 **THE COURT:** That I will support and defend --

4 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will support and defend --

5 **THE COURT:** -- the Constitution and laws of the
6 United States of America --

7 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- the Constitution and laws of the
8 United States of America --

9 **THE COURT:** -- against all enemies, foreign and
10 domestic;

11 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- against all enemies, foreign and
12 domestic;

13 **THE COURT:** That I will bear true faith and allegiance
14 to the same;

15 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will bear true faith and
16 allegiance to the same;

17 **THE COURT:** That I will bear arms on behalf of the
18 United States --

19 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will bear arms on behalf of
20 the United States --

21 **THE COURT:** -- when required by law;

22 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- when required by law;

23 **THE COURT:** That I will perform non-combat service --

24 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will perform non-combat
25 service --

1 **THE COURT:** -- in the Armed Forces of the
2 United States --

3 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- in the Armed Forces of the
4 United States --

5 **THE COURT:** -- when required by law;

6 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- when required by law;

7 **THE COURT:** That I will perform work of national
8 importance --

9 **THE PETITIONERS:** That I will perform work of national
10 importance --

11 **THE COURT:** -- under civilian direction when required
12 by law;

13 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- under civilian direction when
14 required by law;

15 **THE COURT:** And that I will take this obligation
16 freely --

17 **THE PETITIONERS:** And that I will take this obligation
18 freely --

19 **THE COURT:** -- without any mental reservation --

20 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- without any mental reservation --

21 **THE COURT:** -- or purpose of evasion.

22 **THE PETITIONERS:** -- or purpose of evasion.

23 **THE COURT:** So help me God.

24 **THE PETITIONERS:** So help me God.

25 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

1 Please join me in welcoming our newest U.S. citizens.

2 (Applause)

3 **THE COURT:** At this time, I will, along with the clerk
4 of court, present the certificates.

5 Family members, if you wish to come and get a
6 photograph of your new U.S. citizen getting a certificate,
7 please do so at this time.

8 (Certificates presented and shaking of hands of the new
9 citizens by the Court and the clerk.)

10 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Please be seated.

11 At this time, we will have a message from the
12 President of the United States.

13 (Delay in video playing.)

14 **THE COURT:** He couldn't be here but he sent this
15 video.

16 (Laughter)

17 (President Obama addresses the new citizens via videotape.)

18 **THE COURT:** A little music.

19 (Musical video of Lee Greenwood's God Bless the U.S.A.
20 played.)

21 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Donatelli.

22 At this time, I would like to recognize our
23 congressional delegation: Ms. Schlup and Ms. Cobb on behalf of
24 Senator Barrasso, Ms. Tinsley on behalf of Senator Enzi's
25 office, and Ms. King on behalf of Congresswoman Lummis' office.

1 I believe they have some letters to hand out to the new U.S.
2 citizens if you would like, please.

3 (Letters presented to the new citizens by the congressional
4 delegation.)

5 **THE COURT:** Thank you, ladies.

6 I would note that I had contacted Senator Enzi,
7 Senator Barrasso and Congresswoman Lummis' office, and they all
8 responded that they would have loved to have been here today,
9 but due to commitments that they have in Washington, D.C., they
10 could not be. So their staff was kind enough to come and hand
11 out the letters.

12 I would also note that it's important -- those are
13 your representatives now, and they represent you as citizens of
14 Wyoming in Washington, D.C. So they are important people to
15 contact if you feel that you're not getting what you need.

16 At this time I would recognize the various patriotic
17 organizations. Mr. Lowe and also Mr. Cohee is here, I see, and
18 the Daughters of the American Revolution. I see them as well
19 and the Disabled Veterans. Dr. Robinson is here. He's
20 returned from New Mexico.

21 And at this time, Mr. Lowe.

22 (Mr. Lowe salutes the American Flag.)

23 **MR. STAN LOWE:** May it please the Court.

24 **THE COURT:** Counsel.

25 **MR. STAN LOWE:** On behalf of the veterans of Wyoming

1 and particularly here in Natrona County, we welcome you as new
2 American citizens. We're proud that you've chosen to become
3 one of us and to share in all the benefits and the remarkable
4 features of this magical country called America.

5 My job here in representing the veterans of this state
6 and also of the United States is to share with you some of the
7 viewpoints of the military that have had such an important part
8 in the creation and the splendid development of our great
9 country. I'm sure there are veterans in the audience here
10 today.

11 Veterans in the audience, would you hold your hands up
12 so we can see. Thank you very much.

13 I'm sure these gentlemen plus --

14 (Applause)

15 **MR. STAN LOWE:** I'm sure these gentlemen plus
16 Dr. Robinson and Mr. Cohee and myself will agree with me when I
17 say: The reason we have such a remarkable military force of
18 this country is because we don't train our troops to surrender.
19 We train our troops to win wars. This is because this has been
20 a tradition in history, at least until recent years, that we
21 follow that policy. So when the British started kidnapping the
22 seamen off of American Merchant Marine ships and using them to
23 sail their ships, we went to war with them in the War of 1812
24 to stop them from kidnapping our seamen and using them on their
25 ships, and we didn't stop fighting that war until Cornwallis

1 surrendered. Then came the unfortunate time of the Civil War
2 when we were fighting each other and killing each other, and
3 this is a most unfortunate time of our history, but we proved
4 two things; that is, we were a country made up of states that
5 would permanently remain part of the United States of America,
6 and none could withdraw; and the second was that we wanted the
7 dignity of man restored to all of our citizens so that there
8 would be no longer slaves and free in this great country
9 because it was inconsistent with the basic principles upon
10 which our nation was founded.

11 Now, I have to tell you in all candor the best
12 generals to graduate from West Point went with the Confederacy,
13 and we had a tough time in the first part of the Civil War. My
14 great grandfather was there, and we -- it was a trying time for
15 President Lincoln, but he was steadfast. There would be no end
16 of the war until there was a complete, total surrender by the
17 Confederacy, and that's exactly what happened. Despite all the
18 adversity and all the difficulties that we encountered in the
19 early part of the Civil War, we finally ended up victorious,
20 following the tradition that our nation has always followed.

21 Then came the Spanish-American War. This is an
22 unusual one. There was a ship called the *USS Maine* in the
23 Havana Harbor that suddenly blew up and sank, and immediately
24 the conclusion was that the Spaniards, who then controlled Cuba
25 and Puerto Rico and the Philippines -- that the Spaniards had

1 sunk our ship deliberately and purposely, and we -- the
2 newspapers, the *New York Herald* as I recall its name, began
3 trumpeting this across the nation; that we had to go to war
4 with Spain, and we did. It was a short war, lasted just a few
5 months, and then after -- and again we took the position that
6 there would be nothing short of total and complete surrender to
7 end that war.

8 Well, afterwards we discovered that actually the
9 Spaniards had not sunk the ship; that due to the coal dust in
10 the coal bins used to run the ship, to power the ship, that
11 there was spontaneous combustion that blew up the ship and sank
12 the ship. Now, according to some of the more recent
13 mentalities, they might say, "Well, my goodness, we should
14 probably go back to Spain and say, "Can we give you back the
15 Philippines and Cuba and Puerto Rico?"

16 No, we didn't do that. We didn't do that. That isn't
17 the way wars are fought, and that isn't the way wars end. When
18 wars are fought in the end with victory, a total and complete
19 victory, that's it. So there's no suggestion of such a
20 ridiculous thing.

21 Then came World War I, and again we were facing the
22 Kaiser of Germany and also the emperor of the Austro-Hungarian
23 Empire. This whole thing started with the shooting of the
24 archduke of Austria-Hungary, and this was a very difficult war.
25 The United States finally got involved in it, and our troops

1 were sent overseas, and right away the British and the French
2 that had fought to stalemate with the Germans -- they wanted to
3 use our troops to fill in for those who had been killed.
4 General Pershing didn't allow that. He said, "No. Our troops
5 are going to fight together. We're not going to join your
6 demoralized troops in order to win this war because we only
7 fight wars to win."

8 And so consequently that's exactly what happened, and
9 we won that war, and Germany and Austria-Hungary surrendered,
10 not exactly on the terms that we might have liked because the
11 British and the French insisted on this notorious Versailles
12 Treaty which was an insult to the German people and the
13 Austria-Hungarian people, but they wouldn't listen to
14 President Wilson at this time. They were -- they were enjoying
15 the victory, and they wouldn't listen to us.

16 Then came World War II; and, again, as Dr. Robinson
17 will testify to you and speaking to him, we entered that war
18 totally unprepared. His unit from New Mexico, for example, was
19 sent over because there was word that there was going to be an
20 attack on the Philippines and on what's called "Indochina."
21 That's Vietnam and those countries, Cambodia and Laos that made
22 up the French Indochina, and that's what the word was; that the
23 attack was going to be on those areas there.

24 So his unit was sent over in the fall of 1941 just
25 before the attack in December of '41; and until that day, which

1 is ten hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dr. Robinson
2 will tell you that the men on the three-inch anti-aircraft guns
3 had never experienced any practice or instruction on their guns
4 before they fired them to shoot at the Japanese; that only 20
5 percent of the shells that the guns fired exploded up in the
6 air with their shrapnel to try to bring down the Japanese
7 planes.

8 My two first ships were so unseaworthy that we had to
9 abandon them out in the Pacific, and we had to be repatriated
10 to give you an idea of how prepared we were for World War II.
11 It was a pathetic situation frankly; but because of the spirit,
12 the determination of the American people, women working in the
13 factories and helping to build the war material that we needed
14 in order to carry out that war, we were -- and plus the fact
15 that we had the greatest sea armada ever assembled in history
16 with all those 5,000 ships built and under the auspices of our
17 own Admiral Emory S. Land from Laramie, Wyoming, who headed up
18 that process or that particular activity that helped us win the
19 war.

20 We were able to fight all over the world: In the
21 Pacific, Africa, Europe. We were able to fight everywhere; and
22 in the end we were victorious because we took the position --
23 as General Eisenhower said repeatedly, "There's nothing less
24 than unconditional surrender." And so unfortunately, however,
25 in recent times, we have some people in this country that are

1 of different stuff than that kind, and I can tell you very
2 frankly that the veterans stand very strongly on the principle
3 that you don't fight wars to surrender, and you don't fight
4 wars to give up. We don't -- we don't allow our buddies and
5 our friends to be killed for that purpose. We don't tolerate
6 that sort of thought. When we go in, if we give up blood and
7 lives of our men and women, we expect total and unconditional
8 surrender. That isn't the way it's been in the last few years
9 unfortunately.

10 So I hope that you will stand with us veterans in our
11 firm, firm commitment to support our troops once they go to
12 war; but until that war has ended with total and complete
13 surrender, we stay solidly behind them, and we demonstrate that
14 we're solidly behind them, and we do it in several ways. When
15 we see one of them on the street, we go up to them and shake
16 their hand and we say, "Thank you for your service to our
17 country," and also we send them care packages to show our
18 concern, and these -- there are organizations that you can get
19 in touch with that can handle sending the packages for you, but
20 you send care packages to show these men and women how much we
21 appreciate what they're doing, the commitment they've made and
22 the unfortunate thing, of course, of their being less than the
23 fulfillment of that commitment because of our lack of resolve
24 with our political leaders sometimes. This is a tragedy that's
25 been stalking in this country in the last few years; but I

1 would ask you, therefore, to keep in mind to stay with the
2 veterans in all that you do, in all your thoughts, in all your
3 prayers and in all your actions because those are the people
4 that defend us. Those are the people that don't allow the kind
5 of stuff that's going on over in these foreign countries where
6 people are killing each other and being killed and people are
7 driving along the roads, and bombs along the roads are killing
8 people and that sort of thing. We don't have that sort of
9 thing, and that's because of our troops, because of our
10 military strength. God bless America, God bless our troops and
11 once again congratulations on your new citizenship.

12 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Lowe.

13 (Applause)

14 (Mr. Lowe salutes the American Flag.)

15 **THE COURT:** Mr. Cohee -- well, let me, first, before
16 we go to Mr. Cohee, recognize the Daughters of the American
17 Revolution: Ms. Gosar, Ms. Haines, Ms. Everett, Ms. Robinson
18 and Ms. Carrico; and, ladies, I believe you have something that
19 you wish to hand out to the newest United States citizens.

20 (Packets presented to the new citizens by the Daughters of
21 American Revolution.)

22 **THE COURT:** Ms. Robinson, so people aren't wondering
23 what those of us that didn't get of any of those packages --
24 Ms. Robinson or Ms. Gosar, one of you ladies, could you tell us
25 what you handed out just so that everyone knows. Oh, could I

1 have you come to a microphone. Sorry.

2 **MS. MARGOT EVERETT:** Pardon me?

3 **THE COURT:** Could I have you come to a microphone.

4 Ms. Everett.

5 **MS. MARGOT EVERETT:** Yes, Your Honor. The Daughters
6 of the American Revolution truly enjoy welcoming new -- our new
7 citizens because we appreciate the time and effort that you
8 have taken to become part of our great nation. We did it the
9 easy way. Each one of us can trace at least one ancestor back
10 to the American Revolution that served in the war of the
11 American Revolution, and we enjoy patriotic occasions, and we
12 like to celebrate them.

13 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Ms. Everett.

14 Mr. Cohee.

15 (Mr. Cohee salutes the American Flag.)

16 **THE COURT:** I believe you have some flags that you
17 might wish to present to the --

18 **MR. GARY COHEE:** I have flags from the American
19 Legion, sir, and pins from the United Veterans Council.

20 **THE COURT:** Thank you, sir. If you could please
21 present those to our newest U.S. citizens.

22 (Pins presented to the new citizens by Mr. Cohee.)

23 **MS. MAYA RUSSELL:** Would you like me to go behind you?

24 **MR. GARY COHEE:** Yes, please.

25 (American Flags presented to the new citizens by Ms. Maya

1 Russell on behalf of Mr. Cohee.)

2 **THE COURT:** On behalf of the Disabled American
3 Veterans, Dr. Robinson.

4 **DR. LEONARD ROBINSON:** I have medals of a bucking
5 horse in the State of Wyoming from the Disabled American
6 Veterans.

7 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Dr. Robinson. If you'd like to
8 present those.

9 (Medals presented to the new citizens by Dr. Robinson.)

10 **DR. LEONARD ROBINSON:** Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Dr. Robinson.

12 At this time, the Court would recognize Mr. Shugart
13 for any remarks on behalf of the Attorney General of the
14 United States, Mr. Eric Holder.

15 **MR. SHUGART:** On behalf of the U.S. Attorney's -- the
16 U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the
17 District of Wyoming, we'd like to welcome each of you as
18 citizens. No doubt the path to citizenship is a difficult one,
19 and I know that each and every one of you have worked very hard
20 to achieve what you have achieved today, and so we'd like to
21 congratulate you and welcome you and wish you the very best as
22 you embark in the next chapter of your lives as United States
23 citizens. So congratulations.

24 (Applause)

25 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Shugart.

1 At this time, I would ask Maya Russell to come forward
2 to welcome our newest United States citizens. Ms. Russell has
3 the ability to present to you a unique perspective, she herself
4 having recently become a United States citizen, and I will let
5 her tell you that story and that path that she took.

6 Ms. Russell.

7 **MS. MAYA RUSSELL:** Welcome, new American citizens; and
8 welcome, friends and family. What a privilege it is for me to
9 share this day with you. This is a significant occasion. Each
10 of you should be commended for your diligence, your patience,
11 your hard work.

12 Some of our audience members may not be familiar with
13 the steps necessary to becoming a U.S. citizen. Therefore, I'd
14 like to take a moment to briefly highlight the naturalization
15 process. Naturalization is the process by which U.S.
16 citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or a national after
17 he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in
18 the Immigration and Nationality Act. To be eligible, you must
19 be found to be an individual of good, moral character. You
20 must be willing to support and defend the United States and its
21 Constitution. This requires basic knowledge of U.S. history
22 and governments. Did you know that each citizen here has
23 successfully passed exams in the areas of English and civics?

24 Guests, please find copies of the civics exams,
25 including the 100 possible civics questions being passed down

1 each row. For those of you who are interested, please
2 administer a quick self-test. Please determine whether you are
3 indeed qualified to be American citizens. Our new citizens
4 here today have successfully passed all required exams and
5 should be commended for their efforts.

6 In 2007, I was naturalized here in this court by
7 Judge Skavdahl's predecessor, the Honorable William F. Downes.
8 He's on the far wall, (referring to new portrait.) I recall
9 being relieved at making it to the final stage of the
10 naturalization process. At the same time I was excited.

11 In becoming an American citizen, I gained certain
12 privileges: The right to vote -- and I know you're all going
13 to vote this year -- the right to run for office -- talk to the
14 ladies behind you -- sit as a juror in the box like most of you
15 are doing here today, travel with an American passport --
16 remember the ladies down at the clerk's office can help you
17 process your American passports -- and to work in this
18 incredible courthouse. Most importantly, I was excited because
19 my children to be born American citizens would take the stories
20 from my childhood and run with the dreams and opportunity this
21 wonderful country has to offer.

22 President John F. Kennedy wrote in his essay "A Nation
23 of Immigrants" that America is a nation of people with a fresh
24 memory of old traditions who dared to explore new frontiers,
25 people eager to build lives for themselves in a spacious

1 society that did not restrict their freedom of choice in
2 action. The continuous immigration in the 19th and early 20th
3 century was central to the whole American faith. It reminded
4 every American, old and new, that change is the essence of life
5 and that American society is a process and not a conclusion.

6 Today you continue this process of building the
7 spacious American society. My fondest hope for you is that you
8 may share with us old traditions, develop new traditions and
9 explore all regions of this beautiful state and country and
10 that you may build for yourselves a life based on true justice
11 and genuine freedom. I hope that the promise of this moment
12 will take root and flourish in the succeeding generations of
13 your families who will be rightfully American citizens.

14 In parting, I wanted to share the sentiments of my
15 colleagues here at the courthouse. On the day I was
16 naturalized, I was gifted this shirt. It reads (holding up the
17 shirt) --

18 (Laughter)

19 **MS. MAYA RUSSELL:** -- "Being a Citizen Rocks." So I
20 hope you, too, will agree that indeed being a citizen rocks.
21 Congratulations and good luck to each of you.

22 (Applause)

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Ms. Russell.

24 Ms. Russell just recently ended her term as a
25 law clerk here in the United States District Court for the

1 District of Wyoming which we did not wish to have happen but it
2 did nonetheless. She comes to the United States from
3 Australia, and she went to school at -- undergrad at New York
4 University and law school at UN -- University of
5 North Carolina, Chapel Hill. So Maya has been a great asset to
6 the United States and to the State of Wyoming.

7 I don't know that I can add significantly to the
8 remarks that you may have -- that have already been made. I
9 will be brief. Many events in this courthouse occur on a daily
10 basis which result in the loss of citizens' rights. So it is a
11 great pleasure that I have to give you an oath and restore or
12 "store" you with rights, including the right to vote, the right
13 to run for office, those rights that many people that have not
14 done what you've done, have not taken that test but were
15 naturally gifted with those rights fail to recognize.

16 This country was forged from a desire to form a more
17 fair and just society and government, a government by the
18 people and for the people. Its formation came at a great and,
19 for many, an ultimate cost. Its formation, however -- that was
20 but a down payment. As noted at the beginning of this
21 ceremony, the price of our freedom continues to be paid on a
22 daily basis.

23 I hope that all of us can recognize and appreciate we
24 are united as Americans, and the freedoms we enjoy are not
25 because of our individuality but rather because of the

1 commitment we've made to one another as fellow citizens of the
2 United States of America.

3 To our newest citizens, thank you for wanting to be a
4 part of that commitment; and may those of us who have already
5 made that commitment or were gifted with it be reminded what we
6 have is cherished and sought after by others throughout this
7 world. May that always be the case, and may we all be proud to
8 be an American citizen.

9 The court shall stand in recess. Congratulations.

10 (Applause)

11 **THE CLERK:** All rise. Court will stand in recess.

12 **(The proceedings conclude at 4:29 p.m.)**

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REPORTER CERTIFICATE

I, JAMIE L. HENDRICH, Official Federal Court Reporter
in the United States District Court for the District of
Wyoming, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

05.14.12
Date

/S/
JAMIE L. HENDRICH, CSR-RPR-CRR
Official Federal Court Reporter

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