

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

3
4 In the Matter of the Casper, Wyoming
5 Naturalization and Granting of June 2, 2025
6 United States Citizenship to: 3:00 p.m.
7
8 Dimitar Angelov Iliev, Irena Casper College
9 Boyanova Iliev, Francisco Lopez, Wheeler Concert Hall
10 Xiu Juan Lu, Luis Alonso
11 Mascorro Mejia, Weikan Sun,
12 Victor Angel Torres Trujillo,
13 Clare Hogan Conklin,
14 Brenis Adonay Zacarias Mancilla,
15 Janine Nel McIntosh,
16 Tamara Viachesloavovna Barilo,
17 Lilia Neri, Fernando Gomez
18 Sanchez, Rachel Sheidow Walczak,
19 Kristine Joi Cayaban Kralovic,
20 Rizki Farisan Nugraha,
21 Mirjam Peil, Nancy Stephany
22 Espinoza Quintanilla,
23 Alfonso Centeno, Yan Cook,
24 Rogelio Rodriguez Munoz,
25 Rongming Jiang, Nikolche
 Naumovski, Nguyen Kim Tu,
 Olha Yuryevna Holubenko,
 Emelyn Tutor Kelley,
 Roberto Salvador Ventura,
 Charlie Preposi Cruz,
 Davina Elizabeth Heywood Keller,
 Gayle Heidi McKay Jones,
 Wilberth Omar Magallanes
 Sanchez, Hector Ramirez Prado,
 Aaron Carrillo Hernandez,

 Petitioners.

23 **TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS ON PETITIONS FOR UNITED**
24 **STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION**
25
 BEFORE THE HONORABLE SCOTT W. SKAVDAHL
 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1 APPEARANCES:

2 For the United States: Office of the United States Attorney
3 District of Wyoming
4 BY: STEPHANIE I. SPRECHER
5 Assistant United States Attorney
6 2120 Capitol Avenue, Fourth Floor
7 Cheyenne, WY 82001
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

22 **JANET DAVIS, RDR, FCRR, CRR**
23 **Federal Official Court Reporter**
24 **2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2226, Cheyenne, WY 82001**
25 **307.433.2154 * jbd.davis@gmail.com**

24 *Proceedings reported by realtime stenographic reporter;*
25 *transcript produced with Computer-Aided Transcription.*

1 (Proceedings commenced 3:05 p.m., June 2, 2025.)

2 COURTRROOM DEPUTY: Oyez, Oyez, Oyez. The United
3 States District Court for the District of Wyoming is now in
4 session, the Honorable Scott W. Skavdahl, Judge, presiding.
5 God 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 Casper College Wheeler Concert Hall for a special session
9 of the Federal District Court for the District of Wyoming.

10 The Court will suspend all rules limiting the use of
11 camera and recording devices.

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

17 As of this morning, 7,091 American men and women have
18 been killed in action while involved in military operations in
19 the Middle East. In addition, 53,556 United States military
20 personnel have been wounded in action during these military
21 actions. Let us take a moment of silence and recognize these
22 American heroes and their families whose sacrifices cannot be
23 measured and loss will never be recovered.

24 (Moment of silence observed.)

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

1 The United States District Court for the District of
2 Wyoming is in special session for the naturalization of foreign
3 nationals to be United States citizens. It is with great
4 honor, pride, and privilege that I am able to conduct today's
5 ceremony naturalizing 33, I believe -- because I saw an empty
6 seat when I was back there looking at this -- new U.S. citizens
7 from 14 different countries around the world.

8 The Federal District Court of Wyoming, including Chief
9 Judge Rankin, Judges Freudenthal, Johnson, Klosterman, along
10 with myself extend our congratulations.

11 I would ask the clerk of court to make a call of
12 applicants for U.S. citizenship and raise your hand when your
13 name is called.

14 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Dimitar Angelov Iliev, Irena
15 Boyanova Ilieva, Francisco Lopez, Luis Alonso Mascorro Mejia,
16 Weikan Sun, Victor Angel Torres Trujillo, Angel Hogan -- Claire
17 Hogan Conklin, Brenis Adonay Zacarias Mancilla, Janine Nel
18 McIntosh, Tamara Viacheslavovna Barilo -- I tried -- Lilia
19 Neri, Fernando Gomez Sanchez, Rachel Sheidow Walczak, Kristine
20 Joi Cayaban Kralovic, Rizki Farisan Nugraha, Mirjam Peil, Nancy
21 Stephany Espinoza Quintanilla, Alfonso Centeno, Yan Cook,
22 Rogelio Rodriguez Munoz, Rongming Jiang, Nikolche Naumovski,
23 Nguyen Kim Tu, Olha Yuyevna Holubenko, Emelyn Tutor Kelley,
24 Roberto Salvador Ventura, Charlie Preposi Cruz, Davina
25 Elizabeth Heywood Keller, Gayle Heidi McKay Jones, Wilberth

1 Omar Magallanes Sanchez, Hector Ramirez Prado, Aaron Carrillo
2 Hernandez.

3 THE COURT: Anyone sitting on the stage in that area
4 that did not have their name called? If so, raise your hand.

5 I see no raised hands. I just wanted to make sure.

6 And there's a reason why we have the clerk of court
7 call those names.

8 One of the most fundamental acts we do as citizens of
9 the United States is pledge our allegiance to the flag of the
10 United States, and I would ask Sally Peil -- am I saying that
11 correctly -- Sally Peil -- forgive me -- and Alex Trujillo to
12 lead us.

13 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

14 THE COURT: I would also ask at this time if we could
15 have Katy Baumstarck sing for us the Star-Spangled Banner.

16 And if we could all stand.

17 (Star-Spangled Banner performed.)

(Applause.)

THE COURT: At this time if I could ask that the
President's video be played.

(President's message played.)

THE COURT: I'm not used to this forum, so I'm a
little bit awkward out here.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: At this time I would -- at this time I

would recognize Ms. Sprecher, United States for the District of Wyoming Stephanie Sprecher, representing the Attorney General of the United States, for a petition.

MS. SPRECHER: Your Honor, may it please the Court.

THE COURT: Counsel.

MS. SPRECHER: Before the Court today are individuals for a hearing on a petition for naturalization. Each of these prospective citizens has successfully completed all the steps necessary for eligibility for United States citizenship. Moreover, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service has completed its process with respect to each of these individuals, including necessary background investigations.

Having successfully negotiated all these hurdles, we are advised that each of them is well qualified to be admitted to citizenship. Therefore, the United States hereby moves the Court to admit each of these individuals to United States citizenship upon their taking of the required oath.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Sprecher.

On the petition of the United States, the Court finds that each of the applicants identified has satisfied the legal requirements to become a citizen of the United States, and, therefore, grants the petition and will enter an order allowing these petitioners to become citizens of the United States of America, subject to the taking of their oath.

At this time -- let me see if I can sneak up here.

If I could have our soon-to-be United States citizens -- if you would please face me at this time, raise your right hand and repeat after me. Please stand.

I, state your 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; I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

Congratulations to our newest citizens.

At this time I will go ahead and present the certificates to our newest citizens.

And if you want to relocate to get a picture, you're more than welcome to do so.

(Presentation of certificates of citizenship.)

THE COURT: At this time -- and let me first give you a little story why we're here today as opposed to a courthouse somewhere. We were contacted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service about a month and a half ago and asked if we could accommodate an additional swearing in ceremony. We

just did one about a month ago or little less than a month ago. And I said, Absolutely. We can find a way to do that. And then I learned that there were 33 new U.S. citizens to be sworn in, and combined with the family and friends that they have and our patriotic organizations and other attendees, we don't have enough room at the courthouse.

So the Casper College was kind enough to loan us this facility to conduct the ceremony today, because it is important, obviously, that as soon as you're eligible that you're able to get sworn in. And you've had a long journey, so we're happy that we could get to the end of that journey and get you your citizenship and administer the oath.

With that, I want to recognize various organizations that have contributed to our citizenship and our country becoming what it is and gaining the freedoms and joys that we have and privileges.

At this time I would recognize various patriotic organizations, and I would start with the Daughters of the American Revolution. And then we'll follow up with the Wyoming Society of U.S. Daughters of 1812.

MS. ROWE: Good afternoon, my fellow Americans. My name is Kristen Rowe, and I am here on behalf of the Fort Caspar Chapter of National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. We are a service organization focusing on historic preservation, education and, of course, patriotism.

I consider myself very lucky to have been born in the United States. My ancestors fought for that right for me. I have been given freedoms and opportunities others can only dream of. This is something in which I take great pride.

Each of you have had a unique journey arriving at this celebration today, none of which were easy, I am sure. Whether you came by boat, plane, bus, or foot, you made the necessary steps to join us all as citizens today. You have surpassed many difficult adjustments that come with moving to a new country and fought hard to become Americans just like me and my DAR sisters. I commend you on your hard work, dedication to achieve this status.

I would like to welcome you on behalf of our Fort Casper chapter as our newest countrymen and women. We ask only that you cherish her, honor her and protect her, and please embrace all the possibilities that you are now given. May God bless each and every one of you on your newest journey. Thank you.

THE COURT: Wyoming State Society of Daughters of 1812.

MS. HAINES: Good afternoon. On behalf of the Wyoming members of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812, I am delighted to participate in your ceremony of naturalization.

The War of 1812 was a continuation of sorts of the Revolutionary War to guarantee that the conditions agreed upon

at the end of the Revolutionary War were honored. Many Revolutionary War patriots also fought in the War of 1812, as did their sons and even some of their daughters.

Similar to the Daughters of the American Revolution who just spoke to you, our members are descendents of those patriots of the War of 1812 who continued the fight to preserve the freedoms of the United States.

It is my sincerest honor to say to you today: Welcome as a citizen of our beautiful United States of America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Haines.

At this time I would recognized the Disabled American Veterans and American Legion and the Natrona County United Veterans -- I'm sorry -- the Natrona County United Veterans.

MR. WILLIAMS: What can I say other than that? Some people wonder why we're in the military and what we do and why we do it.

Hello. There they are.

(Applause.)

MR. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, thank you so much for this opportunity and the wonderful staff that you have. We appreciate it.

THE COURT: Thank you for coming.

MR. WILLIAMS: At this time I would ask that you join

with me in saluting the representatives of our commander-in-chief.

And salute.

The first folks that we will have to come forward before we get started -- I love to walk instead of talk. Excuse me all to heck. But I'm here to tell you about some of the greatest things that you own is called the United States Armed Forces. You own the United States Navy, United States Army, United States Navy -- I said, right. I got it wrong. It is Army. I should know that. We're first. Navy, then the Marine Corps -- hello -- and the Coast Guard, Air Force and now the Space Force. This is your military and they are here for you.

These young men that are going to be coming forward, helping in a minute, they will explain to you what their organizations are.

First, we'll start with the -- this is the one that's got the title, Your Honor, correctly, Natrona County United Veterans Council. I wrote it down. His Honor had to guess.

Basically, what the Natrona County Veterans Council is a combination of -- (inaudible) -- anyway, the Natrona County United Veterans Council is a combination of all the veterans organizations within Natrona County. We get together to take and do veterans honors. I like to think that we do the job helping veterans after 5:00 and after Monday through Friday.

So we do help veterans when we can and when they're in need.

And with that, like I said, we have the American Legion here. We have the VFW, the DAV, and, of course, the Marine Corps, the president of that also.

With that, I would like to take and say congratulations to all of you and congratulations to being an American citizen. Thank you.

Next, it is my great honor and privilege for me to introduce to you the American Legion's former commander and now, I believe, the adjutant. Dean Welch will speak for them.

ADJUTANT WELCH: Well, first of all, congratulations on your commitment and dedication to reaching this point today. We're very proud of all of you. The American Legion was established in 1919, so we're 106 years old. We've been in Casper for 106 years. So we're all about helping our veterans, supporting them and their families, and then we also promote Americanism and patriotism. So that's why we're here today, to honor all the great patriots that just became citizens. Thank you very much.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Commander. You do such a good job for our community and our American veterans.

The Disabled American Veterans -- unfortunately -- Commander Darren Dyer, he sends his best wishes. Unfortunately, he could not make it and he asked me to speak for him.

The Disabled American Veterans is exactly what that is, is veterans that somehow have given more than some. They've lost legs, arms, and in some way have become disabled by other means. These ladies and gentlemen are the pride of our nation and the most highly decorated unit that we probably have. Majority of them, 85 percent, are Purple Hearts. The little pin that is being given out is through the DAV, and it represents the state of Wyoming with the letters DAV. Yes, you may wear that on any lapel you have or on your cowboy hat.

Thank you again for choosing us.

Next, we have the VFW. VFW Commander Stephen Meyer was, unfortunately, unable to be here, and in his place we have former Commander Mr. Blackwell [sic].

MR. BLACKFORD: My name is Ernie Blackford. I'm a past Post commander of VFW 9459. The VFW stands for Veterans of Foreign Wars, which, as the name implies, we as members are -- have been employed in -- on foreign soil during the time of wartime. And we were established in the year of 1898 at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. Our mission was to provide support for all veterans returning from foreign entities, their families, and their communities.

And I wish you a very big, warm Wyoming welcome.
Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Commander.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again, thank you so much (inaudible).

THE COURT: At this time I would recognize those individuals whom you elect with your new-found powers as a citizen.

I would recognize U.S. Senator John Barrasso's staff, as well as Congresswoman Hageman's and Senator Lummis's staff. I think we have Kiefer Mclemore with Senator Barrasso, as well as Faith Rhoden and Aster Harris, and on behalf of Senator Lummis we have Jackie King, and on behalf of Congresswoman Hageman we have Rachel Hedges and Seth Cyr. Thank you.

(Presentation of letters by congressional delegations.)

THE COURT: Thank you.

So you now have phone numbers and addresses. When you don't like what's going on, write a letter, pick up the phone, or there may even be an email address too. So that is one of the important rights that you've now been vested with and that you need to exercise.

Let me turn to the Natrona County 4H and recognize them and Jessykah Bennett and Cheyla Bennett.

MS. JESSYKAH BENNETT: We're here on behalf of 4H.

Congratulations on your new citizenship. Welcome. Our gift to you is Wyoming jade. It is our official gemstone and it was once called the green gold of Wyoming. From ancient times, jade has been valuable and sought after. Many

attributes are luck, property and healing, balance, peace, harmony and many other to this beautiful stone. We hope that wherever your American journey and adventure takes you, it will be full of all things and this small piece of Wyoming will go with you to remind you of us all. Sincerely, Natrona County 4H, created by Heavenly Locks. Congratulations on your new citizenship.

THE COURT: Thank you, Jessykah.

I believe we also may have a representative from the Small Business Administration -- nope, we do not. Okay. I stand corrected.

One of the things that we like to do at this time is recognize each of you new U.S. citizens and give you the opportunity to thank anyone you wish or to recognize anyone that you wish that may have come with you today or has been here with your journey through to citizenship as well as telling us one thing that makes you excited about today's ceremony.

With that, I would start with our newest U.S. citizen, I know it is Dimitar Angelov Iliev. You can also say your name for us so that we can get it right.

MR. ILIEV: Hi, everyone. This is -- Dimitar Iliev is my name. That's how I say it. I would like to thank you, thank my wife, my son for everything, and I would like to say thank you for everything and being a U.S. citizen.

MS. ILIEV: Hello, everyone. My name is Irena Iliev. I'm happy to be here with my family and happy to become a citizen of this country. And I feel that country in our heart and proud to raise my son here and being here is pleasure for me. Thank you.

MR. LOPEZ: Hi. My name is Francisco Lopez. Thank you, everybody, for coming to here. I work in Jackson Hole for the high school. I love Jackson, Wyoming, for giving to me and I have my citizenship. Thank you so much.

THE COURT: You might say your names for the court reporter.

MR. MASCORRO: My name is Luis Mascorro. I want to start off by thanking my beautiful wife and family being there every step of the way and my beautiful family. Thank you for making this happen.

Gentlemen, thank you for your service.

And, yeah, I'm excited for this new journey.

MR. SUN: My name is Weikan Sun. I was so happy today to be a U.S. citizen. Today is starting to my new life. America is my home now. Thank you for everybody. God bless America. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MR. TORRES: Hi. My name is Victor Torres. And today is really a good day for being a citizen. Thank you to my wife, my kids and for you coming to this. Thank you for your

time today. Thank you. That's all. Thank you.

MS. CONKLIN: Hi. My name is Claire Conklin. I moved to the U.S. 16 years ago from the UK, originally to New York and then more recently in 2020 to Jackson Hole with my family, my two kids and my husband. My life is here now, and I'm very happy, excited and feel really honored to now be able to call myself an American U.S. citizen. So thank you, everybody.

MR. ZACARIAS: My name is Brenis Zacarias. I want to thank God for this opportunity and thanks, my friends, for being here. And thank you for welcoming me to the United States. Thank you all.

MS. MCINTOSH: My name is Janine Nel McIntosh. And thank you to my husband and friend that made the drive, and thank you to everyone up here that we've reached the end of the journey and we're now here. So thank you, everyone, for helping us celebrate.

MS. BARILO: Hi. My name Tamara Barilo. Yeah. I would like to thank my family and friends and everyone here and thank you for the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen.

MS. NERI: My name is Lilia Neri. Thank you to become a U.S. citizen. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Thank you, my husband and my children, for helping this for me.

MR. GOMEZ: Hi everyone. I'm Fernando Gomez. I wasn't ready to say anything. I didn't know I'd have to, so I wasn't ready for this. But I want to say thanks to everyone

and everyone that took time to be here and let us become an American citizen. Thank you.

MS. WALCZAK: Hi. I'm Rachel Sheidow Walczak. I'm honored to be here and become a U.S. citizen. Very nervous on the microphone, if you can't tell. Thank you.

MS. KRALOVIC: Hi. I'm Kristine Kralovic. Thank you for this opportunity. It has been, like, eight years since I started this journey. Finally today is the day. Thank you. God bless America.

MR. NUGRAHA: My name is Rizki Nugraha coming from Bali, Indonesia. It is a long way from home, and appreciate everyone up here, especially our veterans and whoever coming from the government. I appreciate coming with open arms and everyone here. Congratulations. Thank you.

MS. PEIL: My name is Mirjam Peil from Switzerland, but now -- I call Wyoming my home and America for a while now. It has been a while since I moved here. I'm in love with America first and then with my husband when I came to Wyoming. And I want to remember my grandpa's marriage to -- I'm sorry. He passed away last year, but -- please forgive me. I think I could contain it, but this is even harder with all the hormones.

Anyway, Grandpa would have loved to be here today. But he's with Jesus, so I'm not worried about that, but, still, I want to remember him, his service. And thank you for your

service. Thank you for -- thank you to everyone and my beautiful family being here today.

MS. ESPINOZA: Hi. My name is Nancy Espinoza. Thank you for everyone for your time. Thank you for my mom, my kids. And this is a special day today. I'm so happy. Thank you so much.

MR. CENTENO: Hello, everyone. My name is Alfonso Centeno. I'm from Mexico. And I want to thank you guests and all of you vets. I come from Jackson Hole. I see a lot of people here from Jackson Hole. People there are super nice. But you guys make me welcome. I mean, I won't forget this day. Thank you so much for these details. They make me happy. And seeing a lot of nice people in Casper and all the United States, and thank you for this is my home now and makes for happy hearts. So one heart, two places. And I love you guys. Thank you.

MS. COOK: My name is Yan Cook. I am the proud wife of a Marine Corps veteran and I am a sister-in-law of an Army veteran. With all you guys' sacrifice and everybody in military sacrifice, there will be no freedom for us. So I appreciate all your sacrifices.

And I thank you for all my family and friends. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being willing to drive up to eight, nine hours to be here to celebrate my big day. Now, America is my new home, country. I'm proud to be a U.S.

citizen. Thank you so much.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Rogelio Rodriguez. And, first of all, I give thanks to God and this beautiful country and allowing me to be here. Thank you to everybody here.

MR. JIANG: Hi. My name is Rongming Jiang. I'm so happy and I'm honored to be here. And I'm not good about talking. Thank you everyone for coming today. Thank you so much.

MR. NAUMOVSKI: Hello, everyone. My name is Nikolche Naumovski, but since I've been to the States I've been going by Nick. I figure it is easier for everybody.

I've been here for nine years. I would like to very much thank my wife and my family for this journey. It has been a long time, but in the end it was worth it. Thank you, everybody, and thank you for welcoming us to this great country. It really is a great country. Everybody here should be proud of this country. I know for sure that I am. So God bless America.

MR. TU: Hi, everybody. My name is Nguyen Tu. So this is my special day. I'm so crying I be here. I'm so happy. Thank you, everyone.

MS. HOLUBENKO: Hello, everyone. My name is Olha, and I'm very honored to become a citizen of the United States of America and be part of this country. Thank you.

MS. KELLEY: Hello, everyone. My name is Emelyn

Kelley. I am so happy to be here and always with us today.
God bless America.

MR. VENTURA: My name is Roberto Ventura. Thank you to the United States for this opportunity, and thank you to my family and friends for support. Thank you and congratulations, everybody.

MR. CRUZ: Can I pass the microphone to the next?

Anyway, my name is Charlie Cruz. I was in the Philippines for a two-week international collaboration with my team from the University of Wyoming and Casper College when I got the notice via email. And I had to fly back last Friday, so I arrive here, like, afternoon of Saturday. And I didn't want to miss this one because this is the moment, the culmination of a better American dream and also the long way is worth it.

I would like to thank my family in the Philippines and my family here in Casper, Wyoming, as well as my co-workers who became friends, and family of my boss. They're here with me. Thank you so much for the support. And God bless everyone, and congratulations to all of us.

MS. JONES: My name is Gayle Jones. I grew up in Canada, but I have lived in the United States longer than I ever lived in Canada, so this has been my home for many, many years, and this has been a long time coming. My dad was an American. My grandpa was American, so this is finally coming

home. And I am very excited and feel very blessed to finally have this happen.

I'm here with my daughter who is an Army veteran and served two tours overseas. So thank you for your service. And congratulations to everybody.

MR. MAGALLANES: Hello, everybody. My name is Wilberth Magallanes. I have been in the United States for 15, 16 years now. This is a huge milestone for me and my family.

I want to thank my wife, my kids, my mom and my dad that's here today. And thank you guys for your service. God bless America.

MR. RAMIREZ: My name is Hector Ramirez, and this is a special day for me and for my family, so this moment makes me really happy. I just want to say thank you to all of you for being part of this moment and thank you for the opportunities I have been finding in this country. I left home in 1996, so I'm really proud to be part of this wonderful country. And thank you and congratulations to all my partners.

MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Aaron Hernandez. I have lived in this country for 20 years and specifically the state -- the great state of Wyoming. I'm pretty excited for today. It's has been a long journey, like a lot of my peers here.

Thank you to my family over the years, my mom, dad and brother. They're present today. And, yeah, just very thankful

of the opportunities I've received over the years in this country and specifically in this state. I want to thank the court officials, government officials that are here today that pulled this together. And also for the veterans that are present, thank you for your service. Excited to be part of this country as a citizen. So thanks for everything.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: Thanks, Vanna. Ms. Dyer.

So it is always interesting to hear about the journeys that you've all engaged in and have endured to get to this day, and it is a tribute to you all and your family and those supporting you.

I would recognize Ms. Stephanie Sprecher for remarks on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States.

Ms. Sprecher.

MS. SPRECHER: Thank you, Your Honor.

There are few more memorable occasions than this when a person realizes their goal of embracing the United States as its own country -- your own country. And there's really few celebrations that we get to attend more meaningful than this. It is really quite an honor to be here on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States to welcome you to the United States as citizens, even though some of you have been here a long time. This has been an incredible journey for many of you and a difficult one for some of you, I bet, as well, so

we want to welcome you and thank you for choosing the United States to be a part of.

What the celebration reminds us of, especially as you introduced yourselves, is that what makes somebody an American is not their bloodlines. What makes somebody an American is the true love for the United States, for this country and for all it represents.

And I want to take a moment to commend your bravery because, indeed, it takes bravery and enthusiasm and perseverance to embrace life in a different country. And this can be challenging and exciting.

For the majority of Americans, becoming a citizen was easy. We were born into it, as people have said when they talked to you earlier. And some of us take it for granted. And it is these celebrations that make us take stock in what we have to be grateful for and why we should not take for granted the citizenship we are born into.

Each one of you had to work very hard to attain your citizenship, and your presence here today is proof that you had the courage and fortitude to meet whatever unique challenges you faced along the way. Our state and our country can only benefit from having citizens as brave as you.

I don't have anything to put in your bags, but I want to send this message to you that I hope you remember in situations that become difficult in your future: Many of you

have probably already encountered negative comments or situations and you might encounter that again in the future, despite your citizenship. But what I want you to know is that those people who acted like that, they represent just a tiny fraction of your fellow citizens. The majority of us altogether, including you now, embrace and celebrate your accomplishments, and we are filled with gratitude that you chose to join us, the United States, to be a citizen with us. And we welcome you as new and equal partners as we all navigate together what it means to be citizens of the United States.

And so with that, I want to congratulate you and wish you the best with each of your journeys. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Sprecher.

I kind of fibbed at the beginning of this. This really isn't as much about you as it is about me. Here's the deal. I don't have many proceedings where people are excited, happy, joyous when I finish. Most of them get remanded to custody. That doesn't happen today, and I am so glad, and I cherish the opportunity to conduct or to proceed with these ceremonies, because that happiness and joy you have and what reassurance I and others have in what we have in America and reminds us to not take it for granted.

Congratulations. The importance and significance of this event to you, your family and friends cannot be overstated. Unlike many, including myself, you weren't gifted

by mere birth to U.S. citizenship. We've heard today -- I counted up, if I did my math -- which I went to law school to avoid that -- 29 years, 29 years is the longest journey I've heard and I'm sure there's some of you who have even gone further than that to become a United States citizen. And I commend you for that effort. You've worked hard for many years, and you've done it the right way.

Your hard work and dedication to your families and this country should not go unappreciated or unnoticed. There's no perfect country or government, and the United States of America is no different. The exception is that our country was forged by immigrants who had experienced tyranny, persecution, feudalism, oppression by their own governments and were willing to sacrifice and many did sacrifice it all for the betterment of their families and, ultimately, fellow Americans.

These men and women formed a government unlike any other, one designed to serve the people, not one where the people served the government. That is why it is so critical that as citizens you and all of us participate and contribute in our government, because we the people give the government its power. And to improve or change, we must all participate in that process lest we stand silent and fail to exercise our rights and support our Constitution.

Our Constitution is simply a paper document, and without that participation and belief in it and defending of

it, it is rendered valueless.

Our Constitution was crafted not based upon a universal ideology but, rather, on compromise and appreciation that no singular idea or system was superior, but, rather, an amalgamation of views and systems that have come together to provide a structure that has endured a civil war, two world wars and several terrorist attacks.

To our newest U.S. citizens, I encourage you, with your enthusiasm, skills and talents make us a better, a richer country. Vote and exercise your rights and freedoms, but appreciate and respect the divergent views and beliefs that make this country what it is.

We must all appreciate how and why we enjoy the freedoms we do. It is not because we all think and believe the same, but, rather, because we respect each other's diversity and the freedoms to have differing beliefs. You are now part of us, a richly woven fabric of the United States of America.

May we never forget the rights and freedoms that exist and we enjoy only because of those who forged this country and believed in it and valued it more than their own self-interest. May we always honor our commitment to each other above self, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Congratulations to our newest citizens.

(Applause.)

THE COURT: With that, we will stand in recess.

(Proceedings concluded 4:08 p.m., June 2, 2025.)

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, 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 7th day of July, 2025.

/s/ *Janet Davis*

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