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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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In the Matter of the  
Naturalization and Granting of  
United States Citizenship to: Cheyenne, Wyoming  
July 14, 2014  
10:15 a.m.

LUCRECHE ARLEYNA JEFFERSON  
JULIE GAY HARROLD  
GEE TYNGOBAYEE PAYTOE  
FANY PATRICIA LECHUGA RODRIGUEZ  
EULALIA WASENBURGER  
MARIWATI HARDJITO  
ANGELO HALAPUA  
HERNANDO LEOCADIO SOLANO  
HERTANTO ADIDHARMA TAN  
JOEL VALENTINE MARTINEZ TORRES

Joseph C. O'Mahoney  
Federal Courthouse

Petitioners. **CERTIFIED COPY**

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TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR  
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

BEFORE THE HONORABLE KELLY H. RANKIN  
Chief United States Magistrate Judge

APPEARANCES:

Movant: MR. MARK A. KLAASSEN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
P.O. Box 668  
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0668

Court Reporter: MS. JULIE H. THOMAS, RMR, CRR  
Official U.S. Court Reporter  
2120 Capitol Avenue, Room 2228  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307)778-0078 CA CSR No. 9162

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography,  
transcript produced by computer.

1 (Proceedings commenced 10:15 a.m.,  
2 July 14, 2014.)

3 THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and  
4 welcome to the J.C. O'Mahoney Federal Courthouse building, and  
5 welcome to this naturalization ceremony.

6 I would like to begin this morning by recognizing  
7 those citizens and families of those citizens who have paid  
8 the ultimate price in defending what so many in this world  
9 seek, that is, the freedom and benefits of being a United  
10 States citizen. As of today, more than 7,000 American men and  
11 women have been killed in action while involved in military  
12 operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, more than  
13 50,000 United States citizens have been wounded in these  
14 military operations. Let us take a moment of silence and  
15 recognize these American heroes and their families whose  
16 sacrifices cannot be measured and whose loss will never be  
17 recovered.

18 (Moment of silence.)

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

20 Well, the United States District Court for the  
21 District of Wyoming is in special session this morning for the  
22 naturalization of foreign nationals to be United States  
23 citizens. It is with great honor, pride, and privilege that I  
24 am able to conduct this ceremony today, inducting two  
25 new -- excuse me -- ten new American citizens. This is a

1 wonderful ceremony for all of us in the District Court.

2           The Federal District Court for the District of  
3 Wyoming, including Chief Judge Nancy Freudenthal, District  
4 Judges Alan Johnson and Scott Skavdahl, along with Tenth  
5 Circuit Judge Greg Phillips, all extend their heartiest  
6 congratulations to you, your families, and your friends.

7           At this time I will gladly suspend our rule which  
8 prohibits the use of photography and recording equipment. So  
9 today please feel free to move about and take all the pictures  
10 you wish, and feel free to move around as necessary during the  
11 course of this ceremony. We'll certainly have another  
12 opportunity at the conclusion of the ceremony to take group  
13 pictures with family and friends. So please snap away, if you  
14 will.

15           At this time I'm pleased to introduce Mark Klaassen.  
16 Mark Klaassen is an Assistant United States Attorney here in  
17 the District of Wyoming and today is representing the Attorney  
18 General for the United States.

19           Mr. Klaassen, may I call on you to take the roll of  
20 our future citizens at this time.

21           MR. KLAASSEN: Certainly. Thank you, Your Honor. I  
22 appreciate the introduction from the Court. I am here today  
23 appearing as a representative of the United States Attorney's  
24 Office for the District of Wyoming on behalf of the Attorney  
25 General of the United States in these proceedings today.

1           It's my privilege to introduce to the Court the  
2 following individuals who appear in person for a hearing on  
3 their petitions for naturalization as United States citizens.  
4 I have to apologize in advance if I mispronounce names. There  
5 were a number of them on this list that are quite challenging.  
6 I'll do my best.

7           The first name I have is Lucreche Arleya Jefferson,  
8 a former inhabitant of the Congo.

9           Julie Gay Harrold, Canada.

10          Gee or Gee Tyngobayee Paytoe of Liberia, formerly of  
11 Liberia.

12          Fany Patricia Lechuga Rodriguez of Mexico.

13          Eulalia Wassenburger, Mexico.

14          Mariwati Hardjito, Indonesia.

15          Angelo Halapua, Tonga.

16          Hernando Leocadio Solano, Peru.

17          Hertanto Adidharma Tan, Indonesia.

18          Joel Valentine Martinez Torres, Mexico.

19          Your Honor, each of these individuals has been  
20 interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner  
21 of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.  
22 They have completed a character and background investigation  
23 of these individuals. CIS indicates that each of these  
24 individuals has met all requirements for naturalization and is  
25 well qualified as a desirable candidate for United States

1 citizenship.

2           As a fellow citizen, I want to welcome and  
3 congratulate each and every one of you on this very special  
4 occasion. You are to be commended for your diligence and your  
5 effort in obtaining this honor of citizenship, and I wish all  
6 of you the very best.

7           And so on recommendation of the immigration officer,  
8 it's my honor to move that all of these petitioners be granted  
9 United States citizenship upon taking the oath.

10           THE COURT: Mr. Klaassen, thank you.

11           Well, if our new prospective citizens are ready, if  
12 you would please stand, and I will administer the oath. I  
13 must forewarn you, the oath is pretty long, so your arm might  
14 get a little bit tired.

15           With that, if you would please raise your right hand  
16 and begin with "I" and then please state your name. Go ahead.

17           I, and then your name, hereby declare on oath ...

18           THE PETITIONERS: ... hereby declare on oath ...

19           THE COURT: ... that I absolutely and entirely ...

20           THE PETITIONERS: ... that I absolutely and  
21 entirely ...

22           THE COURT: ... renounce and abjure ...

23           THE PETITIONERS: ... renounce and abjure ...

24           THE COURT: ... all allegiance and fidelity ...

25           THE PETITIONERS: ... all allegiance and fidelity ...

1 THE COURT: ... to any foreign prince ...

2 THE PETITIONERS: ... to any foreign prince ...

3 THE COURT: ... potentate, state, or sovereignty ...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ... potentate, state, or

5 sovereignty ...

6 THE COURT: ... of whom or which I have ...

7 THE PETITIONERS: ... of whom or which I have ...

8 THE COURT: ... heretofore ...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ... heretofore ...

10 THE COURT: ... been a subject or citizen ...

11 THE PETITIONERS: ... been a subject or citizen ...

12 THE COURT: ... that I will support and defend ...

13 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will support and

14 defend ...

15 THE COURT: ... the Constitution and the laws of the

16 United States ...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ... the Constitution and the laws

18 of the United States ...

19 THE COURT: ... against all enemies, foreign and

20 domestic ...

21 THE PETITIONERS: ... against all enemies, foreign

22 and domestic ...

23 THE COURT: ... that I will bear true faith ...

24 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will bear true faith ...

25 THE COURT: ... and allegiance to the same ...

1 THE PETITIONERS: ... and allegiance to the same ...

2 THE COURT: ... that I will bear arms on behalf of  
3 the United States ...

4 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will bear arms on behalf  
5 of the United States ...

6 THE COURT: ... when required by law ...

7 THE PETITIONERS: ... when required by law ...

8 THE COURT: ... that I will perform noncombatant  
9 service ...

10 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will perform  
11 noncombatant service ...

12 THE COURT: ... in the armed forces of the United  
13 States ...

14 THE PETITIONERS: ... in the armed forces of the  
15 United States ...

16 THE COURT: ... when required by law ...

17 THE PETITIONERS: ... when required by law ...

18 THE COURT: ... that I will perform work ...

19 THE PETITIONERS: ... that I will perform work ...

20 THE COURT: ... of national importance ...

21 THE PETITIONERS: ... of national importance ...

22 THE COURT: ... under civilian direction ...

23 THE PETITIONERS: ... under civilian direction ...

24 THE COURT: ... when required by law ...

25 THE PETITIONERS: ... when required by law ...

1 THE COURT: ... and that I take this obligation  
2 freely ...

3 THE PETITIONERS: ... and that I take this obligation  
4 freely ...

5 THE COURT: ... without any mental reservation ...

6 THE PETITIONERS: ... without any mental  
7 reservation ...

8 THE COURT: ... or purpose of evasion ...

9 THE PETITIONERS: ... or purpose of evasion ...

10 THE COURT: ... so help me God.

11 THE PETITIONERS: ... so help me God.

12 THE COURT: Please be seated.

13 Well, based on the petition of the United States,  
14 I'll find that each of these ten applicants identified in that  
15 petition satisfies the legal requirements to become citizens  
16 of the United States of America. And, therefore, I grant the  
17 petition of the United States and will enter an order allowing  
18 these petitioners to become citizens of the United States.

19 Congratulations.

20 (Applause.)

21 THE COURT: At this time let's rise for the Pledge of  
22 Allegiance.

23 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

24 THE COURT: Please be seated.

25 Well, we are very fortunate today to have with us the

1 Cheyenne Capital Quartet, represented and performed by Dyan  
2 Burns, Heidi King, Barb Boyer, and Sheila Green. And I  
3 understand they are going to begin with The Star-Spangled  
4 Banner. Welcome.

5 (The Star-Spangled Banner, performed by the  
6 Cheyenne Capital Quartet.)

7 (Applause.)

8 THE COURT: Now, ladies and gentlemen, we have a  
9 special message from the President of the United States,  
10 Barack Obama.

11 (Video presentation by President Obama, as  
12 follows:

13 "It's an honor and a privilege to call you a fellow  
14 citizen of the United States of America. This is  
15 now officially your country, your home to protect,  
16 to defend, and to serve through active and engaged  
17 citizenship.

18 "Together we are a nation united not by any one  
19 culture or ethnicity or ideology, but by the  
20 principles of opportunity, equality, and liberty  
21 that are enshrined in our founding documents.

22 "Today marks a very special day in your life.  
23 You've traveled a long path to get here. You've  
24 sworn a solemn oath to this country and now have  
25 all the rights of citizenship. With the privilege

1 of citizenship, though, come great  
2 responsibilities, and so I ask that you use your  
3 freedoms and your talents to contribute to the good  
4 of our nation and the world. Always remember that  
5 in America no dream is impossible. Like the  
6 millions of immigrants who have come before you,  
7 you have the opportunity to enrich this country  
8 through your contributions to civic society,  
9 business, culture, and your community. You can  
10 help write the next great chapter in our American  
11 story. And together we can keep the beacon that is  
12 America burning bright for all the world to see.

13 "I am proud to welcome you as a new citizen of  
14 this country. May God bless you, and may God  
15 continue to bless the United States of America.")

16 THE COURT: At this time, ladies and gentlemen, I'll  
17 ask the Clerk's Office to present the Certificates of  
18 Citizenship. You'll want to hold on to these for sure.

19 Tammy.

20 (Certificates of Citizenship presented by  
21 Ms. Tammy Hilliker, Courtroom Deputy Clerk.)

22 THE COURT: I'm pleased this morning to recognize our  
23 supervisory Immigration Services officer out of Denver,  
24 Colorado. Scott Koenigsberg is present, and he usually is.

25 Mr. Koenigsberg, thank you for your attendance today.

1           He has a lot to do with the immigration matters that  
2 come before the Court and certainly your citizenship and your  
3 certificates that you have just been given.

4           We have a number of presentations by some of our  
5 patriotic organizations, who are certainly dedicated and  
6 faithful about attending these ceremonies when they occur, and  
7 I'm so pleased to have them here today. Let me begin and  
8 introduce those folks who I believe are here.

9           First of all, the hostesses for the all-important tea  
10 that will follow this ceremony. And I understand, Tammy tells  
11 me, that will be in the jury room behind us. Normally we have  
12 it in our jury assembly room, but it's going to take place  
13 behind the courtroom, and all are invited to attend. And that  
14 is hosted today by the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary, and  
15 representing the American Legion No. 6 Auxiliary today, Linda  
16 Byrd and Freeda Warren. Thank you for your efforts in that  
17 regard.

18           We have also the Colonial Dames of America, and they  
19 will, here momentarily, present you with the American Flag,  
20 and representing them are Claire Davis and Dorothy Torkelson.  
21 Welcome. Thank you for your attendance.

22           We also have the Colonial Dames XVII Century, and  
23 they will present you shortly with the American Flag Code, and  
24 we have Van Mellblom and Judy Norman here on behalf of the  
25 Colonial Dames XVII Century.

1           We also have representing the VFW 4343 Auxiliary  
2 Mary Lou Lynn, and she will provide you today with a  
3 Star-Spangled Banner booklet. So you're about to get a whole  
4 bunch of goodies that you will want to be sure to take with  
5 you and read on your own time.

6           Also, the VFW 1881 Auxiliary is represented here  
7 today by Diana Shinneman and Carol Tabor, and they will  
8 present to you a copy of the Wyoming Constitution.

9           And, finally, we have from the Daughters of the  
10 American Revolution a United States Constitution that you will  
11 have here in a moment. Representing the Daughters of the  
12 American Revolution, Pam Imig and Donna Weaver and Judy  
13 Engelhart.

14           Thank you all again for your mementos, and at this  
15 time if you would like to make those presentations to our new  
16 citizens.

17           (Presentations by patriotic organizations:  
18 Colonial Dames of America, American Flag;  
19 Colonial Dames XVII Century, American Flag Code;  
20 VFW 4343 Auxiliary, Star-Spangled Banner  
21 booklet; VFW 1881 Auxiliary, Wyoming  
22 Constitution; Daughters of the American  
23 Revolution, U.S. Constitution.)

24           THE COURT: Thank you again to the patriotic  
25 organizations for providing those mementos, if you will.

1           We didn't tell you that you might need a small piece  
2 of luggage to carry all of these things home with you, but  
3 hopefully you'll manage.

4           We're always very well supported by our congressional  
5 delegation. They are big supporters of these  
6 naturalization ceremonies. And we have representatives from  
7 Senator Barrasso, Senator Enzi, and Cynthia Lummis's offices,  
8 and they also have information they want to share and provide  
9 to you. Representing Senator Enzi's office is Martha Wilson,  
10 representing Senator Barrasso's office is Laura Curran, and  
11 also representing Congresswoman Lummis's office is Nancy  
12 Prosser.

13           If you would kindly hand out your material at this  
14 time. Thanks again for your attendance.

15           (Presentation of congressional letters from  
16 Senator Mike Enzi, Senator John Barrasso, and  
17 Representative Cynthia Lummis.)

18           THE COURT: Thank you again to our congressional  
19 delegation.

20           Well, I'm so pleased to have as our guest speaker  
21 today our State Treasurer, the Honorable Mark Gordon.  
22 Treasurer Gordon was appointed to his position in 2012 after  
23 the passing of the late Joe Meyer. As treasurer, Treasurer  
24 Gordon serves as the administrator for the Wyoming state  
25 treasurer's assets and reserve and the Wyoming unclaimed

1 property. He also serves on numerous boards and commissions  
2 as our State Treasurer, along with our other elected state  
3 officials. He is a rancher by trade, and his family have  
4 agricultural operations in Johnson, Sheridan, and Campbell  
5 Counties. He and his family have been ranchers in the area  
6 for a long time, even when my grandfather was in the area as a  
7 rancher many years ago.

8 Treasurer Gordon and his wife, Jenny, have two --  
9 excuse me -- four adult children, two sons and two daughters.  
10 And it is with great pleasure that I introduce Treasurer  
11 Gordon as our guest speaker.

12 MR. GORDON: Thank you, Your Honor. It's an honor to  
13 be here.

14 And good morning, and congratulations. What a happy  
15 day. This is the second ceremony I have taken part in, and I  
16 am still amazed and humbled by the dignity of it. I am struck  
17 by the remarkable tasks you have just completed, and I am  
18 truly honored to be in the presence of our newest citizens.  
19 Thank you.

20 My first ceremony was one where my friend Joan  
21 Shippen, a Brit by birth who had lived in Wyoming with her  
22 husband for several years, decided to become an American  
23 citizen. I drove her here and watched as she faithfully did  
24 those things you all have done to arrive here. She emerged  
25 from the ceremony overwhelmed but still so appreciative of her

1 new country and her investiture as an American citizen. I  
2 asked her yesterday what that moment meant to her, and she  
3 answered simply: An awful lot. It was a very proud day for  
4 me. And, you know, since then I have sometimes wondered if I  
5 had to learn more and know more about America and our history  
6 than many of her own citizens do. I came to America when I  
7 was 50 to visit some friends. I met my husband here, found  
8 work, fell in love with Wyoming and America so much that I  
9 wanted to stay. I had left my big family in England, but the  
10 love I developed for this country, what it represented, and  
11 just the people here made me want to become a U.S. citizen.

12 I was moved by my friend's comments because, unlike  
13 so many who come to visit to live in America, it wasn't the  
14 cowboys, it wasn't Hollywood or New York that she came for.  
15 It was just to visit friends. It was a country -- it was the  
16 country, the opportunity, the responsibility of citizenship,  
17 and the very ideals that forged this country that won her  
18 over.

19 As I listened to you all this morning recite the oath  
20 of allegiance to renounce any fidelity to any foreign prince,  
21 potentate, state or sovereignty of which you have heretofore  
22 been a subject or a citizen and then pledge your commitment to  
23 support and defend our Constitution and laws to the fullest  
24 measure, I wondered if you might be feeling some of the same  
25 sense of adventure and apprehension that our forefathers felt

1 when they did the same that day they declared independence 238  
2 years ago 10 days ago in 1776.

3 Today is Bastille Day, the day in 1790 when the  
4 French attempted their own experiment with democracy. It  
5 didn't turn out so well, and I will put that to you that the  
6 reason for that was because of the unique character of  
7 American government and American citizens. As you know, our  
8 first president, George Washington, was offered the position  
9 of king of the United States, and he said no. And it's  
10 because we, as a nation, have institutionalized in our  
11 Constitution a continuing conversation and argumentation about  
12 the very core ideals of this country. And what that means as  
13 a citizen for you to be involved, I am truly honored and thank  
14 you for taking on that responsibility. And God bless you, God  
15 bless our country, God bless Wyoming. Thank you very, very  
16 much.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE COURT: Thank you very much, Treasurer Gordon,  
19 for those profound words. We very much appreciate having you  
20 here with us today.

21 Well, I understand that our Cheyenne Capital Quartet  
22 is prepared to do another number. Again, welcoming Dyan  
23 Burns, Heidi King, Barb Boyer, and Sheila Green as they  
24 perform America the Beautiful.

25 (America the Beautiful, performed by Cheyenne

1 Capital Quartet.)

2 (Applause.)

3 THE COURT: That was wonderful. Thank you very much  
4 for being here today.

5 Well, let me just make a couple of remarks. The  
6 first remark that I can give you is welcome. You are all now  
7 Americans. Congratulations to you, to your family and  
8 friends. I know this has been a long process. Your training  
9 and your classes and so forth have taken a long time, and  
10 today is the culmination of all of that hard work.

11 Let me just share with you an interesting side note  
12 to the allegiance that each of you just took. I told you it  
13 was long, and it was long, but what you should know is it has  
14 been given to new citizens such as yourselves for a long time.  
15 In fact, the first officially recorded oaths of allegiance  
16 were made in 1778 at Valley Forge during the American  
17 Revolutionary War. So now you join new Americans like  
18 yourselves for 238 years who have taken this same oath.

19 So what does it mean to be an American? Well, of  
20 course, it means that you get to vote. You get to serve on a  
21 jury. In fact, Judge Freudenthal couldn't be here today  
22 because she is presiding over a jury trial in the courtroom  
23 next door. And so you now will get to participate in that,  
24 and we look forward to your service. And you get to enjoy all  
25 the freedoms and liberties of newly sworn citizens of the

1 United States of America. No doubt these are very important  
2 rights and liberties and rights and liberties that really,  
3 quite frankly, people all over the world envy. But what does  
4 it mean to be an American? Most importantly, it means that we  
5 are free. And as Abraham Lincoln said, "Freedom is not the  
6 right to do what we want, but what we ought. Let us have  
7 faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the  
8 end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

9           And more than freedom, as President Theodore  
10 Roosevelt once said, "Americanism is a question of principle,  
11 of idealism, of character. It is not a matter of birthplace  
12 or creed or line of descent." I would only add that this  
13 country's power lies in its citizens' uniqueness and in their  
14 unity.

15           You are doing more today than completing that legal  
16 process you've all worked so hard for. You are making a  
17 lifelong promise to uphold the laws and values that make  
18 America what it is. That promise comes with great privileges  
19 of American citizenship, and it also comes with great  
20 responsibility. New employment and leadership doors are being  
21 opened to you today. I would encourage you to explore what  
22 lies behind each one of them. And there's no doubt each of  
23 your communities have much to gain from each of you in the  
24 years to come.

25           So, again, congratulations, and welcome. You have

1 worked incredibly hard to earn your citizenship, and I know I  
2 speak for all of your Wyoming neighbors when I say we are  
3 grateful to have you. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE COURT: Well, I'm reminded perhaps one of the  
6 most important parts of the day is the refreshments. I keep  
7 hitting on the refreshment part. Again, it's going to take  
8 place, when we're done with this ceremony, in the back jury  
9 room. I encourage all of you to attend. They usually have  
10 some really good things to eat and drink, so if for no other  
11 reason.

12 Mr. Klaassen, on behalf of the United States, is  
13 there anything further that needs to come to the attention of  
14 our new citizens today?

15 MR. KLAASSEN: Not today, Your Honor. Thank you very  
16 much.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 To all who have participated, thank you for your  
19 service and your help with our ceremony today.

20 And most especially, congratulations once again to  
21 our new, brand-new American citizens.

22 If there's nothing further, this special session of  
23 the District Court will stand in recess. And, again, I  
24 welcome pictures anywhere as we conclude. Thank you.

25 (Proceedings concluded 10:51 a.m.,

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July 14, 2014.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JULIE H. THOMAS, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, a Registered Merit Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand the 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 4th day of August, 2014.

/s/ Julie H. Thomas

JULIE H. THOMAS  
Official Court Reporter  
Registered Merit Reporter  
Certified Realtime Reporter  
CA CSR No. 9162