## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

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

Linh Thi My Nguyen, Levi Lopez,
Kimberley Jill Orszulak, Bernard
Ora Quiray, Annita Mukunzi,
Tyler Wayne Sinclair, Selma
Soraya Forrester, Jose Guadalupe
Mendoza, Carlos Gabriel Aburto
Vega, Liesl Welu, Marinel Rojas
Forgey, Erika Guerra, Desiree De
Guzman Philhower, and Nadezda
Borisovna Klineva,

Casper, Wyoming September 14, 2015 3:38 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, Presiding

## **APPEARANCES:**

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- 1 (Proceedings commenced at 3:38 p.m.,
- September 14, 2015.)

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THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Ewing T.

5 Kerr Federal Courthouse for this naturalization ceremony.

The Court will suspend the local rules on cameras and recording devices, but I would ask that you make sure that your cell phones are on silent.

It has been a tradition in these naturalization ceremonies to recognize those citizens and families who have paid the ultimate price in defending what so many in this world seek: the freedom and benefits of being a United States citizen. As of today's date, 6,858 men and women have been killed in action while involved in military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflicts. In addition, 52,369 United States citizens have been wounded in action in these military operations.

Let us take a moment of silence and recognize these American heroes and their families, whose sacrifice cannot be measured and loss can never be recovered.

- (Moment of silence.)
- THE COURT: Thank you.
  - The United States District Court for the District of
    Wyoming is in special session for the naturalization of
    foreign nationals to be United States citizens. It is with

- 1 great honor, pride, and privilege that I am able to conduct
- 2 | this ceremony today inducting 14 new United States citizens.
- 3 The Federal District Court for Wyoming, including Chief Judge
- 4 Freudenthal and Judge Johnson, extend their congratulations to
- 5 you and your families.
- I would ask the Deputy Clerk of Court to make a roll
- 7 call of the prospective applicants for United States
- 8 citizenship. If you could please stand when your name is
- 9 called.
- 10 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Linh Thi My Nguyen, Levi
- 11 | Lopez, Kimberley Jill Orszulak, Bernard Ora Quiray, Annita
- 12 Mukunzi, Tyler Wayne Sinclair, Selma Soraya Forrester, Jose
- 13 | Guadalupe Mendoza, Carlos Gabriel Aburto Vega, Liesl Welu,
- 14 | Marinel Rojas Forgey, Erika Guerra, Desiree De Guzman
- 15 Philhower, and Nadezda Borisovna Klineva.
- 16 THE COURT: Thank you. All citizen applicants are
- 17 accounted for. If you could please have a seat.
- 18 At this time I would ask First Sergeant Rigs for the
- 19 | posting of the colors by the Natrona County High School Color
- 20 | Guard. Sergeant Rigs, if you would please call the posting of
- 21 | the quard.
- Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please stand.
- 23 (Posting of the colors.)
- 24 THE COURT: Fellow citizens, it is your obligation
- 25 and ours to show our allegiance to the country at this time by

- 1 making our Pledge of Allegiance, and then remain standing for 2 the playing our an national anthem.
- 3 (Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.)
- 4 (Playing of video of national anthem.)
  - THE COURT: Thank you. First Sergeant Rigs, would you please retire the colors with our thanks and gratitude to your participants: Mr. Thompson, Mr. Leyba, Ms. Weymouth, Molly Sucher, and Tristan West.
    - Thank you. Please be seated. At this time I would recognize Mr. David Kubichek, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, representing the Attorney General of the United States.
- 13 Mr. Kubichek, I believe you may have a petition.
- 14 MR. KUBICHEK: May it please the Court.
- 15 THE COURT: Counsel.

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- MR. KUBICHEK: Your Honor, before the Court are 14

  petitioners for United States citizenship. They are Linh Thi

  My Nguyen, Levi Lopez, Kimberley Jill Orszulak, Bernard Ora

  Quiray, Annita Mukunzi, Tyler Wayne Sinclair, Selma Soraya

  Forrester, Jose Guadalupe Mendoza, Carlos Gabriel Aburto Vega,

  Liesl Welu, Marinel Rojas Forgey, Erika Guerra, Desiree De

  Guzman Philhower, and Nadezda Borisovna Klineva.
  - All of them have been interviewed and examined under oath by a designated examiner of the Citizenship and Immigration Service, who also completed character and

- background investigations. The Citizenship and Immigration

  Service indicates in their correspondence that each of these

  petitioners has met all of the requirements for

  nationalization and are well qualified as desirable candidates
  - Therefore, Your Honor, on the recommendation of the immigration officer, it is my privilege on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States to move that they be admitted to United States citizenship upon taking of the oath.
  - THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kubichek.

for United States citizenship.

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- 11 MR. KUBICHEK: Thank you, Your Honor.
  - THE COURT: On petition of the United States, the

    Court finds that each of the applicants identified has

    satisfied the legal requirements to become citizens of the

    United States of America and therefore will grant the petition

    and will enter the order allowing these petitioners to become

    citizens of the United States of America.
  - If you would at this time, new citizens, please stand and face me and raise your right hand and repeat after me.
  - And those of you who wish to come forward and take pictures of family members, you're free to do so.
  - (Oath taken as follows:
- 23 "I hereby declare, on oath, that I
  24 absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all
  25 allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince,

1	potentate, state or sovereignty of whom or which
2	I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;
3	that I will support and defend the Constitution
4	and laws of the United States of America against
5	all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will
6	bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that
7	I will bear arms on behalf of the United States
8	when required by law; that I will perform
9	noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the
10	United States when required by law; that I will
11	perform work of national importance under
12	civilian direction when required by law; and
13	that I take this obligation freely without any
14	mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so
15	help me God.")
16	THE COURT: Congratulations to our new citizens.
17	(Applause.)
18	THE COURT: At this time I'd ask the Clerk of Court
19	to assist me in presenting certificates to the new citizens.
20	And you're free to come up and take pictures if you
21	wish.
22	(Certificates distributed.)
23	THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.
24	At this time I would ask the Clerk of Court to play a
25	message from the President of the United States of America.

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1 (Playing of video.)
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THE COURT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, newest citizens, I would ask if you would, please, just so that you can have an opportunity to introduce any family that you might have here today and tell us where you're from and one thing that you are most excited about today. And I would start with Ms. Linh Thi -- I made everybody else --

MS. NGUYEN: Linh Thi My Nguyen.

THE COURT: Yes. If you would start, please.

MS. NGUYEN: So what do I do?

11 THE COURT: Where you originated from, where you 12 reside now, and any family that you have here today.

MS. NGUYEN: Okay. I'm from Vietnam, and now I'm here in Wyoming. My family are all in Texas right now so I'm alone for school. I'm kind of excited because I get scholarships for school as a citizen, no joke.

THE COURT: What's your subject of study?

MS. NGUYEN: Biochemistry, so I can get into the medical field.

20 THE COURT: Wow. All right. Congratulations.

MS. NGUYEN: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Lopez.

MR. LOPEZ: I'm from Guatemala. I have my family -my whole family in Guatemala, but I have a friend here,

Ms. Thompkinson [phonetic]. That's all I have here. And I

- 1 like to live here because I have better life here, and I'm
  2 excited for it. That's it. Thank you.
- THE COURT: Congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Lopez.
- Ms. Orszulak.

mother-in-law.

- MS. ORSZULAK: I'm Kim Orszulak. I have my husband and my two beautiful daughters here as well as my father and
- 8 THE COURT: Can they stand so we can see them. There
  9 they are. Congratulations.
- MS. ORSZULAK: And we all live here in Casper. And
  I'm most excited about voting.
- 12 THE COURT: All right. Congratulations.
- 13 Mr. Quiray.
- MR. QUIRAY: My name is Bernard Quiray, and I'm from

  Philippines but I live in Rawlins, Wyoming, right now. And

  I'm a welder, and I'm glad to be here in United States. Thank

  you.
- 18 THE COURT: Congratulations.
- MR. QUIRAY: Thank you.
- THE COURT: Ms. Mukunzi.
- MS. MUKUNZI: Yes. I'm Annita Mukunzi. I have
  friends [inaudible]. And I'm excited to be here because I was
  educated here. I went to the University of Wyoming, and I'm
  now a registered nurse. And I just moved to Jackson, but I
  lived here a long time, and I worked at Wyoming Medical

- 1 | Center, at the hospital.
- THE COURT: Congratulations.
- MS. MUKUNZI: Thank you.
- THE COURT: Mr. Sinclair.
- MR. SINCLAIR: Tyler Wayne Sinclair. I'm here with my wife [inaudible]. My two beautiful children are in school today. I'm most excited to be able to fully participate in this great democracy. I'm thrilled, and it's an honor to be part of it.
- 10 THE COURT: Thank you. We look forward to your participation in jury service maybe someday. Thank you.
- MS. FORRESTER: I'm Selma Forrester. I live here in
  Casper, Wyoming, with my husband, Michael Forrester, and son,
  Chad Forrester. And I'm most excited to call the United
- 15 States my home.
- 16 THE COURT: We're glad that you can call it your 17 home. Thank you.
- 18 Ms. Mendoza -- I'm sorry. I got that wrong.
- 19 Ms. Klineva.
- 20 MS. KLINEVA: My name is Nadezda. I'm from Russia,
  21 been here for six and a half years. And I'm excited to be -22 to call my home United States of America. I don't have any
  23 family here besides a couple of my friends [inaudible] sitting
  24 right there. So, yeah.
- THE COURT: Very well. Welcome.

- 1 MS. KLINEVA: Thank you.
- THE COURT: Ms. Philhower.
- MS. PHILHOWER: Yes, sir. I'm Desiree Philhower. I
- 4 have six kids. I met my wonderful husband, Scott. His name
- 5 is Scott. I already have four kids, so I have two other with
- 6 him. And you're going to see me a lot of times because I work
- 7 | at the post office as a window clerk. It's been one and a
- 8 half years.
- 9 THE COURT: Oh, great.
- 10 MS. PHILHOWER: And I'm so glad to be one of you
- 11 guys.
- 12 THE COURT: Congratulations and welcome.
- 13 MS. GUERRA: My name is Erica. I live here in Casper
- 14 | for almost nine years. I have three kids. I love this
- 15 | country that give us so many opportunities, and I am just so
- 16 happy and excited to be a citizen.
- 17 THE COURT: Congratulations. We're glad you're
- 18 excited.
- 19 Ms. Forgey.
- 20 MS. FORGEY: I'm Marinel Rojas Forgey. My husband is
- 21 | here and my family [inaudible]. I'm so thankful that I have
- 22 | this privilege to be a citizen.
- THE COURT: Congratulations.
- MS. WELU: I'm Liesl Welu. I have my husband and my
- 25 | three daughters here as well as my three really good friends

1 and their kids.

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THE COURT: You have to stand up now. All right.

MS. WELU: I've been in America for a little over five and a half years, and I'm excited to be an American.

THE COURT: We're glad to have you.

MR. VEGA: I'm Carlos Gabriel Aburto Vega. I've been in the country for at least ten years. I went to school here, and now I work as a health and safety adviser for a big oil company. Unfortunately, my daughter couldn't make it because she's in school, but she knows that I'm here and she's very excited. So I'm glad to be an American now. Thank you.

THE COURT: Congratulations. You're welcome.

MR. MENDOZA: My name is Jose Mendoza. I'm here with my beautiful girlfriend and her son, [inaudible].

THE COURT: Okay. You have to stand. There we go.

MR. MENDOZA: I'm so happy to be an American. My -- my -- it's so tight in my -- my dreams come true. I'm very happy to be an American citizen.

THE COURT: Welcome and congratulations. Thank you.

And you all speak incredibly good English, and I thank you for sharing a little bit about yourselves with us.

At this time I would like to recognize the state of Wyoming's congressional delegation. From Senator Enzi's office I believe we have Ms. Garber. And we have with Senator Barrasso's office Mr. True, Ms. Little, and Ms. Vollmer. And

with Representative Lummis's office we have Ms. King. And I believe they have some information and handouts for you that will help you. And when you're voting, those are the people that you're looking at.

I also would recognize Ms. Farris with the Small Business Administration. She has some information to hand out.

And now you also have the address if you want to lodge any complaints. Unlike many of the countries that you come from, you're free to write a letter to your representative or your senator and tell them what you don't like or tell them what you do like. But this country is built upon the ability of citizens to express their likes and dislikes openly and freely. So you have those addresses now, and if you have questions, the offices are certainly here and present and ready to help.

I would at this time recognize our various patriotic organizations, and first the Daughters of the American Revolution. Ms. Everett, Ms. Conarty, Ms. King, Ms. Orcutt, and I believe Ms. Bromley have handouts that they would like to give. If you would like to do so, thank you.

And, Ms. Everett, if I could impose upon you to just tell us a little bit about what you handed them and about your organization.

MS. EVERETT: Yes, Your Honor.

The envelopes that you have have probably a lot of things that you had to learn in order to become citizens, but some of them may be useful, particularly the current flag code, the story behind our Pledge of Allegiance, and the story behind our national anthem.

And the DAR truly enjoy welcoming new citizens. We

thank you for taking the time and effort to become part of our great nation. And we're a very patriotic organization. This week we are particularly concerned with the -- this Thursday being the 230-some years since our constitution was adopted.

THE COURT: Thank you very much, Ms. Everett.

At this time I would recognize the United Veterans Council of Natrona County. Mr. Welch and Mr. Cohee.

MR. COHEE: Flag pins, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And Mr. Williams and Ms. Diggs.

MR. WILLIAMS: The DAV has the Wyoming pin, Your Honor, and thank you for the invitation.

THE COURT: Thank you for being here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Now you can put that on your cowboy
hat, huh?

You can get a cowboy hat too. This is Wyoming, you know.

And I learned Canadian too, eh?

It's always a pleasure. Thank you for choosing our country.

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As pretty as you are, you'll have a family from Wyoming pretty soon, I guarantee it.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Cohee, have we covered all of the organizations?

MR. COHEE: (Nodding head.)

THE COURT: Thank you all for participation and making this such a special day.

One of the most important people that you'll need to be in contact with in those days, if you intend to travel, it's important that you have all your paperwork in order. And obviously Mr. Herman with the immigration office is the contact person for that.

And thank you for being here today and all the work you've done to get them here today as well.

At this time I would recognize Mr. Kubichek for remarks on behalf of the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Eric Holder -- oh, it's no longer Mr. Holder, is it?

MR. KUBICHEK: Thank you, Your Honor. This is always a real special time for me to be able to come and visit with our new citizens on behalf of the Attorney General, now Loretta Lynch, and on behalf of the President, who's my ultimate boss, except for you all, who now are part of my bosses as well.

That's one of the things that we believe in as

Americans. Those of us in the public service understand or should understand that, you know, at the end of the day, I serve you-all. Every time I get up in court here when I have the chance to address Judge Skavdahl, I always indicate my appearance as David Kubichek on behalf of the United States.

Well, that's not merely an abstraction. That's -that's a fact of my daily life, is that I don't just work for
the U.S. Attorney. I don't work just for the Attorney General
or even just for President Obama. I work for all of you too.

You have now become, among many other hats that you'll wear as citizens, you know, the person I look to when I think about, "Am I doing my job right?" I think about all of my bosses, and some of them are you now. So I'm excited about that.

And this is -- as a litigator and a lawyer who works in an adversarial system all my -- all my years in practice, you know, we have sort of civilized fights in this courtroom between plaintiffs and defendants and the government and defendants. Sometimes we win those; sometimes we lose those. Hopefully always justice wins at the end of the day.

But the one time I have -- I can absolutely be sure
I'm going to win my day is when I come here and do one of
these ceremonies, because I've never lost a motion yet to
naturalize a citizen. And today you've kept my record clean
in that regard. I don't know how many more of these I'm going

1 to get to do in my career, but I'm glad my record is intact.
2 So thank you all.

Thank you also -- the president alluded to this in his remarks. You know, most of us here won the birth lottery. I didn't do anything to become a citizen except have the good sense to have a mom and a dad who were born here and had me here. So under our 14th Amendment, I was automatically grandfathered in. I got to be a citizen just by being born here. I didn't have to learn a language. I didn't have to take a test. I didn't have any character or background examination. I didn't have to do any of that stuff you-all did.

You-all are citizens today because you wanted it, and you had to work hard, and you were enthusiastic and excited. Erica said she was really excited about today to be a citizen, and I loved her enthusiasm. Yeah, most of us didn't have to do any of that. So the fact that you were willing to do all of that to join us is a special thing, and we are so honored and so blessed.

You know, as the president indicated, we're different than a lot of countries. We're not -- we're not all of the same race or all of the same religion or same ethnic traditions. We are a conglomeration. We are the most incredibly diverse accumulation of humanity that's all gathered together with one purpose in mind, to be a country.

And what unites us isn't our heritage or our class or our color or religion; it is a commitment and dedication to certain ideas. There aren't many countries in the world like that, and ours was clearly the first.

And the thing that makes it still possible for us to be that country is the commitment of all of us to not only talk the talk about these principles but to walk the walk too. I mean, look around at all of you here. You're as different as night and day from each other. You know, you have different races, different colors, and I'm sure different religious traditions, different customs. But you all gathered together around a set of principles about freedom and equality and responsibility.

Government, as Lincoln said, was by the people, of the people, by the people, for the people that gather together under certain principles of liberty and freedom and equality. And that's how we're going to rock. That's how we're going to do our thing. And that's how our founders started this thing off and one of the reasons we always honor our military people when we do this ceremony every time -- and you might wonder why that is.

And we also have participating the ladies from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Now, why is that?

Well, they're important not just because they hand out bling to all of you; they're important because they remind us of the

people who put their lives on the line to start America.

You know, we think about Jefferson and Washington and Adams and Monroe and Madison and those guys, and they were -you know, if you think about their lives, they were pretty
affluent people. They had big farms. They had a lot going
on. And, yeah, they were irritated at King George -- no
question about it -- but they could have been fine, because
they were privileged. They were wealthy. But they put their
lives on the line to create our country.

And you look at the history of all the people who signed our Declaration of Independence. A lot of them we remember as great heroes of the constitution and the like, but they all signed up. And a lot of them didn't make it out. Some of them were killed during the revolution. Their estates were burned, their property destroyed. They lost families. And a lot of them fought in the war, the people that our Daughters of the American Revolution sort of represent here today. They gave their lives. They put their lives on the line to establish our country.

And then we remember our military people, who do the same thing. And as the judge pointed out, we've lost 6,000 and change in just the last 15 years fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. What's important to remember about that and the sacrifices that these gentlemen and women made is they chose to put their life aside, set aside everything they were doing

to serve us and to serve you and to serve in defense of the principles on which our country is based.

So when we sit here today and we think about the liberties and all of that that make our country a desirable place and a place that you-all wanted to be citizens of, the reason we have that wonderful place today is because the forefathers, represented by our DAR people, had the courage and the wisdom and the gumption to stake out, back in 1775 and '76, and say, "All right. We're separating. We're going to be a country, and here's what kind of a country we're going to be."

And since then, year after year, decade after decade, people like these gentlemen and women have set their lives on hold to defend those principles.

So -- and part of what you're signing up for today is to participate in that as well, whether it be in military service or civilian service. As your oath said, there are lots of privileges associated with being an American citizen, but there are also duties.

There's the duty to vote. Some of you mentioned that's what you're excited about. There's the collateral duty to be informed when you vote so we know what we're thinking about. And to be a good citizen, not only do you have to have an opinion, but you have to be tolerant of the opinions of your fellows for the most part, because we can only -- we

don't all agree. Obviously, if you watch the news here for any piece of time, you can tell lively debate is a part of our heritage. But at least being respectful in listening and thoughtfulness in connection with our voting is part of what makes us able to keep on keeping on.

But, you know, it's not all -- it's not all hard work. You all bring cultures with you. Share them. You make us stronger when you do that. You know, we -- and participate in your communities. The more you do that, the greater the benefit all the rest of us have by you being here, and that's one of the things we're excited about.

So anyway, on behalf of the President and on behalf of the Attorney General, thank you for coming here and working so hard and by your work reminding all of us what a special thing it is to be an American citizen. And one of the things that makes it most special is sharing that status with all of you. So welcome. Enjoy. Work hard. And the next time we have one of these ceremonies, some of you wander down here and cheer on the next batch, if you'll do that. Thank you again.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kubichek. I look forward to your continued participation and successful petitioning.

In a 1983 speech by Judge Limbaugh from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, he recounted one of many discussions preceding the adoption of the Declaration of Independence:

"Richard Henry Lee, a delegate from Virginia, had introduced a resolution to adopt the Declaration of Independence in June 1776. He was prophetic in his concluding remarks: 'Why, then, sir, why do we longer delay? Why still debate? Let this happy day give birth to an American republic. Let her arise not to devastate and conquer but to re-establish the reign of peace and law. The eyes of Europe are fixed upon us. She demands of us a living example of freedom that may exhibit a contrast in the felicity of the citizen to the ever-increasing tyranny which desolates her polluted shores. She invites us to prepare an asylum where the unhappy may find solace and the persecuted repost.'

"And so this great country was born."

I hope that all citizens, newly sworn and existing, of the greatest country on earth recognize and appreciate we're united as Americans and the freedoms we enjoy have come at a great cost, which continues to be paid.

14 years and three days ago, on September 11, 2001, this country and its citizens experienced an attack on our freedoms and soil. I can't capture in words what that devastation reaped upon our citizens and families that were impacted and continue to be impacted by the ongoing battles for freedom.

There's a video I'm going to play, and I'll tell you right now it is not -- it is very moving, and I hope you find

it as moving as I did when I listened to it. It's four 1 minutes long. 3 And I'd ask the Clerk of Court to go ahead and play that at this time. 5 (Playing of video.) 6 THE COURT: To our newest United States citizens, thank you for wanting to become part of this incredible country. May it be an asylum of happiness, success, and repose. And may those of us who are United States citizens be 9 10 reminded what we have is cherished and sought after by others 11 throughout the world. Be proud and grateful to be an American, and may that always be the case, and may God 12 continue to bless the United States of America. 13 14 We'll be in recess. 15 (Proceedings concluded at 4:25 p.m., 16 September 14, 2015.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

## CERTIFICATE

I, ANNE BOWLINE, Court Reporter in the state 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 22 pages constitute a full, true and correct
transcript.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2015.

14 \_\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Anne Bowline

ANNE BOWLINE
Registered Merit Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter