



# News Release

June 30, 2005

## **USCIS TO WELCOME MORE THAN 15,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING 4<sup>th</sup> Of JULY WEEK**

### *Ceremonies to Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America*

Washington, DC – More than 15,000 men, women and children from throughout the United States will celebrate Independence Day a little differently this year. That’s because they’ll raise their right hands and become America’s newest citizens during special July 4<sup>th</sup> ceremonies. Held at locations across the country (see below), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will commemorate the United States’ 229<sup>th</sup> birthday during a weeklong schedule of citizenship ceremonies designed to “Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America.”

“Every Fourth of July we are reminded of the sacred responsibilities and privileges we enjoy as Americans,” said USCIS Acting Director Michael Petrucelli. “Over the next week, USCIS will introduce more than 15,000 new citizens to our American values of life, liberty and freedom, and allow them to truly celebrate Independence Day for the first time.”

In addition, as part of its continuing efforts to make naturalization ceremonies as meaningful as possible, USCIS has produced a video highlighting the privileges and responsibilities associated with taking the Oath of Allegiance through a historic photographic perspective. USCIS will unveil this video nationwide during the July 4<sup>th</sup> ceremonies.

Each year, USCIS welcomes more than 450,000 citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States. Included in those numbers are more than 10,000 service members who have naturalized through an expedited process since the beginning of the war on terrorism.

For more information regarding immigration services, please call 1-800-375-5283 or visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

### **Oath of Allegiance**

*“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, 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 the 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 the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation of purpose of evasion; so help me God.”*

– more –

**Naturalization Ceremony Locations** (Does not include all ceremonies. \* indicates participation of a DHS principle.)

June 30, 2005

[Florida Community College, Jacksonville, Florida](#)

[Harold Washington Library, Chicago, Illinois](#)

[U.S.S. Littlerock, Buffalo, New York](#)

USCIS District Office, Portland, Oregon

Institute of Texan Culture, San Antonio, Texas

July 1, 2005

[USCIS District Office, Anchorage, Alaska](#)

[Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Florida](#)

[Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines, Iowa\\*](#)

[Children's Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana](#)

[Postal Service Building, New Orleans, Louisiana](#)

Renaissance Marriott Center, Detroit, Michigan

[Lexington Middle School, Lexington, Nebraska](#)

U.S. District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada

[U.S.S. Intrepid, New York, New York\\*](#)

[Fort Johnston, Southport, North Carolina](#)

[Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

July 2, 2005

PETCO Park, San Diego, California

Rice-Eccles Stadium (University of Utah), Salt Lake City, Utah

July 3, 2005

[BelleVue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee](#)

July 4, 2005

South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, Arizona\*

[Newseum, Washington, D.C.](#)

[Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach, Florida](#)

[Miami Beach Park, Miami Beach, Florida](#)

[Lennox Square, Atlanta, Georgia](#)

[William Paca House, Annapolis, Maryland](#)

[U.S.S. Constitution, Boston, Massachusetts](#)

[Esplanade, Boston, Massachusetts](#)

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Saratoga National Park and Battleground, Albany, New York](#)

[Genesee Country Village and Museum, Buffalo, New York](#)

[Harmony Hall, Kinston, North Carolina](#)

Old City Park, Dallas, Texas

[Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia](#)

Space Needle, Seattle, Washington

July 6, 2005

City Hall Chambers, Calexico, California

Veterans Memorial Building, Hollister, California

[Sacramento State University, Sacramento, California\\*](#)

U.S. District Court, Honolulu, Hawaii

July 7, 2005

San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California\*

[Masonic Auditorium, San Francisco, California\\*](#)

[Teatro Tapia, San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) became one of three former INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.