



Media Advisory

June 29, 2010

USCIS to Welcome More Than 100 New Citizens During Fourth of July Celebrations around Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — The “City of Brotherly Love” will celebrate our nation’s 234th birthday with three special ceremonies for our nation’s newest citizens. The ceremonies are part of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) annual celebration of Independence Day. This year’s theme is “A Spirit of Independence.” An estimated 3,800 candidates will become citizens at 55 special ceremonies across the country and around the world from July 1-6.

On July 1, Independence National Historical Park will hold the first naturalization ceremony when 25 new citizens take the [*Oath of Allegiance*](#) at the site where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and adopted. USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas will administer the *Oath of Allegiance* to the candidates and deliver the keynote address. The Boston Children’s Chorus is scheduled to perform.

The National Constitution Center is the site of Philadelphia’s second ceremony, scheduled for July 2, where 76 candidates will become U.S. citizens. Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is the special guest and will deliver keynote remarks, while USCIS’s Philadelphia District Director Karen FitzGerald will administer the *Oath of Allegiance*.

Finally, on July 4, the home of the nation’s most famous flag maker – Betsy Ross – will host a very special citizenship ceremony for 13 children as they receive their Certificates of Citizenship. Kathleen Bausman, Philadelphia’s Acting Field Office Director, will administer the *Oath of Allegiance* and present the children with their certificates. USCIS periodically holds special ceremonies like this for children to recognize and celebrate their citizenship, generally derived through their naturalized parents or adoption.

The citizenship candidates and children represent the following 56 countries: Albania; Bangladesh; Belarus; Brazil; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; People’s Republic of China; Colombia; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Guinea; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; India; Italy; Jamaica; Jordan; Kenya; Korea; Liberia; Lithuania; Mauritania; Mexico; Moldova; Morocco; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Russia; South Africa; Sudan; Sweden; Syria; Taiwan; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; United Kingdom; Ukraine and Vietnam.

WHO:

- Alejandro Mayorkas, Director, USCIS (July 1, Independence National Historical Park)
- Cecilia Muñoz, Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (July 2, National Constitution Center)
- Karen FitzGerald, Director, Philadelphia District, USCIS (July 2, National Constitution Center)
- Kathleen Bausman, Philadelphia’s Acting Field Office Director (July 4, Betsy Ross House)

WHEN/ Thursday, July 1, 2010, 10 a.m. (Independence National Historical Park)
WHERE: Friday, July 2, 2010, 10 a.m. (National Constitution Center)
Sunday, July 4, 1:30 p.m. (Betsy Ross House)

CONTACT: Bill Wright, USCIS, 202-272-1299 or 202-412-5047 (cell)
Jane Cowley, Independence National Historical Park, 215-597-0060 or
215-313-3651 (cell)
Ashley Berke, National Constitution Center, 215-409-6693
Heather Kincade, Betsy Ross House, 267-278-1505

NOTE: Please RSVP to one of the above listed contacts by 6 p.m. the night prior to the ceremony you plan on attending. Please arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the start of each ceremony. Media attending the July 1 ceremony at Independence National Historical Park should enter through 5th and Walnut Streets.

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