



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

Office of Communications

# Media Advisory

June 29, 2010

## **USCIS to Welcome 204 New Citizens During Fourth of July Celebration at South Mountain Community College**

*Arizona Cardinals Guard Among Arizona Residents to Become U.S. Citizens on July 2*

PHOENIX — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and South Mountain Community College (SMCC) will welcome 204 Valley residents as new U.S. citizens at their 22nd annual Independence Day naturalization ceremony.

Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui, offensive lineman for the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League and born in Tonga, will be among the citizen candidates from 55 countries who take the [\*Oath of Allegiance\*](#).

The gym will become an official courtroom with U.S. Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan presiding. Keynote speaker Lorraine Moya Salas, Executive Director of the nonprofit Unlimited Potential serving Spanish speaking families in South Mountain, will join USCIS Phoenix Field Office Director John M. Ramirez and Dr. Raúl S. Monreal, Jr., Associate Dean, SMCC Guadalupe Center, in welcoming the Valley's newest U.S. citizens.

The Fiesta of Independence is the homegrown effort of community groups in the South Mountain Village, in conjunction with the USCIS. Fifty citizens were sworn-in at the first Fiesta of Independence in 1988. The program has become so popular that many immigrants request to be part of this particular ceremony because of the significance of the national holiday.

This ceremony is part of USCIS's annual celebration of Independence Day. An estimated 3,800 candidates will become citizens at 55 special ceremonies held across the country and around the world from July 1-6.

**WHO:** Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui, Offensive Lineman, Arizona Cardinals  
David K. Duncan, U.S. Magistrate Judge  
Lorraine Moya Salas, Executive Director, Unlimited Potential  
John M. Ramirez, USCIS Phoenix Field Office Director  
Dr. Raul S. Monreal, Jr., Associate Dean, SMCC Guadalupe Center

**WHEN:** Friday, July 2, 2010 at 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** The South Mountain Community College Gymnasium  
7050 S.24th St. (north of Baseline Rd.)  
The gym will become an official courtroom with a presiding judge.

**CONTACT:** Mariana Gitomer, USCIS Regional Media Manager  
202.384.6697 [mariana.gitomer@dhs.gov](mailto:mariana.gitomer@dhs.gov)  
Rob Price, Director of Marketing, South Mt Community College  
602.243.8030 [robert.price@smcmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:robert.price@smcmail.maricopa.edu)

**NOTE:** For planning purposes, media attending the ceremony are requested to RSVP to Mariana Gitomer at the e-mail or phone listed above.

Citizen candidates will begin arriving by 9 a.m. The media may interview and photograph willing citizen candidates as they wait in line and following the event. Photos and filming are allowed during the ceremony. TV cameras are requested to set up by 9:45 a.m. and to bring business cards to expedite check in.

- USCIS -