



# Media Advisory

June 30, 2010

## **USCIS to Welcome 510 New Citizens During Fourth of July Celebration at Seattle Center** *Ethnic Heritage Council Presents an Exciting and Colorful Program*

SEATTLE, Wash. — On the Fourth of July, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will present 510 prospective new U.S. citizens from 84 nations before U.S. Circuit Court Judge Richard C. Tallman for naturalization, with Seattle's Ethnic Heritage Council as host. The most represented nation of origin is India, with 48 people, followed by the Philippines, with 44. This year's ceremonies will celebrate our nation's 234th birthday under the theme, "A Spirit of Independence."

Speaking at the ceremony are U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott (7th District), Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, King County Executive Dow Constantine and USCIS District 20, Seattle, District Director Anne Corsano. Master of Ceremonies will be Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn. The new citizens will be serenaded by the Air National Guard Band of the Northwest, here from Spokane; and the Total Experience Gospel Choir. The Children of the World, resplendent in ethnic costumes, will lead the pledge of allegiance, and Gene Tagaban, Swil Kanim and Peter Ali will present a Native American performance. The U.S. Army Color Guard will present the colors.

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:** Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator  
Jim McDermott, U.S. Congressman  
Sam Reed, Washington Secretary of State  
Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
Anne Corsano, USCIS District 20, Seattle, Director

**WHEN:** July 4, 12 noon (concert starts at 11 a.m.)

**WHERE:** Seattle Center  
Fisher Pavilion

**CONTACT:** Sharon Rummery, USCIS Public Affairs Officer, 415-987-0191

**NOTE:** USCIS has contacted the soon-to-be citizens, and chosen some interesting people for your crew to interview, either in advance or at the ceremony. Please contact Ms. Rummery for details.