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News Release

USCIS TO WELCOME 4,000 NEW AMERICANS DURING FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

Ceremonies Celebrate Citizenship and American Independence

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will commemorate the 231st birthday of America by welcoming more than 4,000 new citizens during naturalization ceremonies held around the world and throughout the United States.

“Citizenship is the most precious gift that our country can bestow upon anyone,” said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. “It’s altogether fitting that as we welcome new citizens in locations from Guam to Iraq and Orlando to Seattle, we pause to realize that our newest citizens have given up their past lives in the pursuit of their individual American dreams. Today we celebrate the fact that in the United States you can enter the country as an immigrant and in time become as fully an American citizen as the most direct descendants of our founding fathers.”

This year, USCIS’ weeklong celebration of the American dream is highlighted by various special events, including:

- During the Fourth of July week, USCIS personnel in conjunction with the Department of Defense will naturalize more than 425 active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq, Guam, Germany, Kuwait and South Korea.
- On July 2, USCIS will debut a new film, *A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to Civics and U.S. History for Immigrants*, during a naturalization ceremony at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. During the ceremony, USCIS will welcome more than 100 new citizens.
- On July 4, USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez will naturalize 1,000 new citizens during an event held at Disney World. Singers Gloria Estefan and Lee Greenwood will join Director Gonzalez for the ceremony in Orlando.
- On July 4, USCIS will welcome ten new citizens onboard the USS Constitution during the ship’s annual cruise in Boston harbor. The USS Constitution is the oldest U.S. Navy warship still in active service.

USCIS naturalizes nearly 700,000 individuals a year. More information about the [naturalization](http://www.uscis.gov) process is available on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.