



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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Press Release

USCIS DIRECTOR SALUTES PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IN HONOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK



WASHINGTON, D.C. – To honor and celebrate those dedicated to government service, Eduardo Aguirre, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), gave the keynote address at today’s Public Service Recognition Week opening ceremony on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In his remarks, Director Aguirre reminded government workers, including members of the military, that their contributions should always be recognized as an invaluable service ensuring that our government remains strong. “In no other endeavor can you more directly serve our country’s cause or support its values than in the public sector.” He added, “Whether it’s fighting terror; ensuring Social Security benefits to citizens; discovering treatments of diseases; protecting national parks;

or providing relief for victims of natural disaster; or eradicating poverty in the United States – those challenges, and our ability to carry on our work and continue to demonstrate how the world can be better, are the most important ways in which we will prevail as one nation.”

Mr. Aguirre spoke about the events of September 11th and reminded public servants that many of our society’s issues and values such as progress, prosperity and national security were taken for granted prior to this date. However, when these values were under attack, the call to public service became more important in our nation. “Our nation’s response to the events of September 11th has helped to strengthen our country. Many decided to serve America by entering the public sector and contributing to its success and safety. As a public servant myself, representing the Administration, I feel there is an even greater sense of national community reborn out of tragedy.”

Relating his personal government experience, Mr. Aguirre emphasized that employees at the USCIS have embraced three core values: Respect, integrity and ingenuity. “These core values guide our daily activities in the way we treat our customers, each other and the important responsibility that we have in the United States to remain a welcoming nation of immigrants. Aguirre added, “The work of the public employee and military personnel today is dedication and commitment to serve in a spirit of patriotism, upholding a greater cause than themselves.”

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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.