



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Press Release

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IRISH SOLDIERS RECEIVE POSTHUMOUS CITIZENSHIP

Washington, D.C.- Eduardo Aguirre, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS) posthumously naturalized twenty-eight Irish soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the U.S. military during the Korean War.

“There is no more fitting way, for a grateful nation, to pay homage to these fine soldiers than to bestow them with posthumous citizenship, the most that we can offer in return...America is emboldened by their memories.” said Aguirre.

Posthumous naturalization is an honorary status of U.S. Citizenship granted to an alien or non-citizen whose death incurred on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces during specific military hostilities. The Posthumous Citizenship Restoration Act of 2002 makes it possible for the United States Government to appropriately celebrate non-citizens who give the ultimate sacrifice during a time of military conflict.

Aguirre shared the heroic stories of soldiers who fought and died in a battle for freedom of a people and preservation of a way of life. He gave the compelling example of Corporal Patrick Sheahan, who carried four fallen soldiers, while under heavy fire, to a safe perimeter and later protected his company as they marched by charging enemy embankments. His courage, which led to his death, earned him a Silver Star.

Along with Acting Secretary of the Army Lee Brownlee, Irish Ambassador Noel Fahey and Colonel Jin Wang of the Korean Embassy, members of Congress on hand included: Senator Edward Kennedy (MA); Senator Charles Schumer (NY); Congressman Marty Meehan (MA); Congressman Peter King (NY); Congressman Steve Israel (NY); Congressman James McGovern (MA); and Congressman Richard Neal (MA).

Visit USCIS on-line at www.immigration.gov, for photos from the ceremony, and Director Aguirre’s remarks.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy 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.