



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

September 14, 2006

Advisory

USCIS to Welcome a Record 28,000 New Americans at 133 Ceremonies

Will Launch New Partnership with National Park Service at Ellis Island Ceremony

WASHINGTON – In commemoration of Citizenship Day and Constitution Week (September 17-23), USCIS will swear-in more than 28,000 new U.S. citizens at 133 citizenship ceremonies around the nation. This is a USCIS record of new Americans to be naturalized in one week. Many of these special local ceremonies will take place at National Parks and Monuments across the United States.

To underscore this year's theme: "*Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America's National Parks*," USCIS and the National Park Service (NPS) will launch a new partnership to welcome new Americans at some of our most prominent and historic National Parks. Approximately 50 National Parks have expressed an interest in hosting naturalization ceremonies. USCIS Director Emilio T. Gonzalez and Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne will officially recognize this new partnership during a Naturalization Ceremony at Ellis Island on Monday, September 18.

The announcement of this new partnership coincides with an Executive Order signed by President Bush to create a *Task Force on New Americans*, focusing the efforts of Federal, State, and local agencies to integrate legal immigrants into American society. The cooperation of USCIS and the National Park Service is one of the many ways that the Department of Homeland Security is working to fulfill the mandate of the President's task force by enhancing the significance of citizenship for the newly naturalized.

Some of the National Parks hosting ceremonies during the week of September 17th – 23rd include Ellis Island National Memorial in New York, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.

A Partial List of Citizenship Ceremonies at National Parks and other locations September 17-23

Sunday, September 17

- National Mall and Memorial Parks, 7th and 8th Streets N.W. and Madison Drive, Washington, D.C. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, September 18

- Jean Lafitte National Park, Wetlands Cultural Center, New Orleans, LA - 10:00 a.m.
- Ellis Island National Monument, New York, NY - 10:30 a.m.
- Charles Pinckney National Historical Site, Charleston, SC - 8:00 a.m.
- Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ - 10:00 a.m.

- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, MO - 1:00 p.m.
- Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas - 1:00 p.m.
- Homestead National Park, Beatrice, NE - 1:00 p.m.
- Orpheum Theater, Phoenix, AZ - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19

- Denver Civic Center, Denver, CO - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 20

- Cabrillo National Monument (Military Naturalization), San Diego, CA - 10:00 a.m.
- Garland ISD School -Special Events Center, Garland, TX - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 21

- Federal District Court, San Juan, Puerto Rico - 9:00 a.m.

Friday, September 22

- Miami USCIS Naturalization Office, Miami, FL, -3 ceremonies - 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA - 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Great Sand Dunes National Park, Visitor's Center, Pueblo, CO - 10:30 a.m.
- Yuma Civic Center, Yuma, AZ - 10:00 a.m.
- BP Energy Center, Anchorage, AK - 10:00 a.m.
- Federal District Court, Federal Building, Juneau, AK - 10:00 a.m.
- Yosemite National Park, Sierra Nevada, CA - 11:00 a.m.
- Federal Courthouse, Santa Fe, NM - 11:00 a.m.
- USCIS District Office, Houston, TX - 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the USCIS Office of Communications at 202-272-1200.

**** Footage of Ellis Island ceremony will be available through the Pathfire Digital Media Gateway, under the "VNS- A, Citizenship and Immigration Services" tab.**

– USCIS –

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 our nation's security.