



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
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NEWS RELEASE

INS Holds Special Citizenship Ceremony to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Federal Executive Board (FEB)

CHICAGO, IL. February 28, 2002 The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), along with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, held a special naturalization ceremony today for 168 new citizens. This ceremony was held in recognition of the 40 years of service that the Chicago Federal Executive Board (FEB) has been providing to local Federal Employees.

The FEB was established in 1961 by Executive Memorandum. Today there are twenty-eight FEBs serving major metropolitan areas across the nation. The Chicago FEB serves as the Federal presence in the eleven county Chicago metropolitan area. The mission of this board, whose membership is limited to the most senior officials of each Executive agency in the area, is to provide closer coordination among Federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. The FEB's goals include fostering closer communication between member agencies and informing the local community of national policies and priorities; reducing costs and improving efficiency within the federal government; partnering with community groups to solve problems; and coordinating emergency services by marshalling the resources of the entire federal community.

This ceremony took place in the Winter Garden Room of the Harold Washington Public Library. The Honorable Charles P. Kocoras, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, administered the oath of allegiance to all 174 new citizens who represented 37 different countries. Of the new citizens, Mexico had the highest representation, followed by Poland and then India.

The INS has provided immigration benefits, including naturalization of new citizens, to Chicago's immigrants since July 1, 1897. Granting citizenship to eligible candidates is one of the main priorities of the agency. In fiscal year 2001, October 1, 2000 to September 30 2001, the Chicago district naturalized over 30,000 new citizens.

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