



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

September 14, 2004

Advisory

USCIS TO WELCOME 32 NEW CITIZENS *Ceremony Highlights the American Dream in Action*

BALTIMORE, Maryland – A group of 32 Maryland residents from 22 countries will take the Oath of Allegiance and become United States citizens during a special ceremony Thursday at the State House in Annapolis. The ceremony commemorates “Citizenship Day.” Richard Caterisano, the Director of the Baltimore District of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), will preside over the ceremony. Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. will offer opening remarks and host the event. Maryland Secretary of State Karl Aumann will serve as Master of Ceremony.

Last year, the Baltimore District Office granted citizenship to more than 13,000 people throughout the state of Maryland.

The 32 new Americans are originally from: Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Taiwan, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

On March 1, 2003, USCIS became one of three legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security. During the past year, USCIS has helped more than 450,000 men, women and children fulfill their dreams and become United States citizens.

EVENT: Naturalization Ceremony

DATE: Friday, September 17, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. (media set-up 10:30 a.m.)

LOCATION: State House, Governor’s Reception Room
Annapolis, Maryland

PRINCIPALS: Robert Ehrlich, Jr., Governor, Maryland
Richard Caterisano, Director, USCIS Baltimore District

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