



Advisory

September 18, 2007

USCIS TO HOLD MILITARY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE

Six Naturalized Citizens in the Military Will Also Receive the Prestigious American By Choice Award

BALTIMORE – Fifteen members of the United States Armed Forces will take the [*Oath of Allegiance*](#) and become American citizens on Monday, September 24 during a special military naturalization ceremony at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. This ceremony and the “*American By Choice*” presentation will commemorate Constitution Week and pay homage to the immigrant members of the military who defended Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Emilio Gonzalez will swear-in the new Americans. Fort McHenry NM&HS General Superintendent Gay Vizeke will open the ceremony, and USCIS Baltimore District Director Greg Collett will present the candidates for citizenship. Additional military dignitaries have been invited to participate.

These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Reservists, National Guardsmen and a military spouse are taking another step towards achieving the American dream. This special public ceremony is being held by USCIS and Fort McHenry NM&HS to celebrate the thousands of military men and women who will become U.S. citizens this year.

During this special ceremony, six naturalized citizens who also serve in the U.S. military will receive the prestigious “[*American By Choice*](#)” award in recognition of their outstanding achievements, civic participation and responsible citizenship. Recipients of this honor include Army Chief Warrant Officer Abida Shoyeb; Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Mitzie Robinson; and four members of the Air Force: Maj. Manuel Dominguez, Capt. Rasul Alsalih, Capt. Van Thai and Tech. Sgt. Oluwasina Awolusi.

WHEN: 10 a.m., Monday, September 24, 2007

LOCATION: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
2400 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21230-5393

PHOTO OPP: The new citizens will form a flag detail, raising a 30 x 42-foot replica of the Star Spangled Banner that that flew over Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814 inspiring Francis Scott Key to write the words to our National Anthem.

NOTE: Citizenship applicants and *American By Choice* recipients arrive at 9 a.m. Media are strongly encouraged to arrive early to interview applicants before the ceremony. Request broadcast set-up no later than 9:30 a.m.

CONTACTS: USCIS, Chris Rhatigan, (202) 272-1297; Fort McHenry, (410) 962-4290

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