



Thank you very, very much, Judge Tagle, distinguished guests, honorees, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great honor and high privilege to participate in this most meaningful and wonderful ceremony and be with you here today.

I am very proud to welcome all of you as fellow citizens of the United States of America. I encourage and invite you to join fully in the American Adventure and to share our common goal and our common glory. Our common goal is freedom---- the liberty of each individual to enjoy the equal right and to pursue the happiness which in this life God gives and self-government secures.

Our common glory is the great heritage from the past which enriches the present and ensures our future.

In 1884 France as a birthday gift presented the United States with a Statue – The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

But you have given us a present beyond price-yourselves, your faith, your loyalty and your love. We thank you with full and friendly hearts.

After two centuries there is still something wonderful about being an American. You know what it is or you would not be here today.



Washington, Franklin, Adams and Jefferson along with others laid the foundation for freedom in our Declaration and our constitution and in the design of these documents, they wanted to build in this beautiful land a home for equal freedom and opportunity, a haven of safety and happiness for all who would come to us through centuries.

Many of you today become American Citizens while bringing precious relics of the world you left behind – a song, a story, a dance, a tool, a seed, a recipe, the rules of a game or a trick of the trade. Such transfusions of traditions and cultures, as well as of blood, have made America unique among nations and Americans a new kind of people.

To be an American is to subscribe to those principles which the Declaration of Independence proclaims and the constitution protects, liberty and justice, equal rights, and equal opportunity.

As a U.S. Citizen you have the right to vote, own property, seek elective office and be protected by the laws of our land.

We are citizens in that we owe allegiance to our Government and in return our Government owes us protections. As good citizens we contribute our personal time to our American Society, our local community and our friends and neighbors. We must vote, pay our taxes and follow the law. We must ensure the security of our neighborhoods and work places. We must volunteer our time to good



causes. We must respect the right of others and demand the same of ourselves. We contribute to those less fortunate who work hard for themselves. We conduct ourselves in accordance with American Family values and respect everyone's right to practice their own religion and live as they please.

Good citizens are good neighbors. Our society has provided a standard of living to the average American that is unsurpassed in the world. We spend much of our time making money. Then we spend much time on relaxation such as going to the movies, traveling, etc. All of this results in less time spent with others especially our neighbors. We must get out and lend a helping hand.

All of our communities have special needs. Fundraising activities, service clubs, schools, churches, scouts etc. All sponsor efforts that support these causes each year I encourage you to volunteer and help causes that make our community a better place to live, work and play. Good citizens give their personal time to good causes.

Good Americans live principals and values that are consistent with our founding documents of freedom. We must work tirelessly to be men and women of integrity, self-discipline, proactivity, humility and empathy.



Today as you become citizens we are all reminded that we not only have many rights but also many responsibilities as citizens of this great nation.

Each of you today is challenged to uphold the U. S. constitution. Each American and you now as new American citizens has the responsibility to uphold the ideals of tolerance and justice, to teach children the difference between liberty and license; and to share in the hard work of freedom --- at the ballot box, in the workplace, in the military, or through the home, schools, and places of worship.

In closing, I share with you what our President at his inauguration, echoed, “America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interest and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our county more not less American”.

Remember that none of us are more than caretakers of this great country. Remember that the more freedom you give the others, the more you will have for yourself. Remember that without law their can be no liberty. And remember, as well, the rich treasures you brought from where you came, and let us share your pride in them. This is the way that we keep our independence as exciting as the day it was declared and keep the Untied States of America as beautiful as ever.