



County Legislature

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7th Legislative District

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Welcome and congratulations. Today is a day of great achievement and accomplishment. It is the accumulation of hard work and pride. You should be proud of the work you have completed to become naturalized – the journey may not have been easy, but it is not without its reward. For today you are now United States citizens.

In this country, being a citizen is one of the greatest privileges. You are now free to experience the liberty, freedom, and prosperity that this country has to offer. As a citizen you are entitled to:

1. To vote national, state, and local elections
2. Have a right to travel on a US passport
3. May sponsor relatives, such as your parents, spouse, children, brothers and sisters for permanent residents status in the United States.

With the oath and allegiance, this nation opens its arms and embraces you as her own. These privileges are not without their responsibilities. As an American citizen there is a standard to uphold, duties to share, and loyalty to be given. As the Oath of Allegiance states:

- I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
- Bear true faith and allegiance to the same
- And that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

You have shown your dedication to these responsibilities by swearing to uphold the principles that embody this nation. I urge you to go out into the nation today and continue to live by the principles that led you here today. For you should be proud – proud to be a citizen living in Orange County – one of the most attractive areas in the New York metropolitan area. We have affordable housing, excellent school systems, a low crime rate, outstanding transportation system, and a wide range of recreational activities for all to enjoy. I welcome you and look forward to having you join us as we strive for the quality of life we all deserve. I look forward to your contributions and input as I continue to serve this community as a willing and dedicated servant of the people. Join me as we preserve our rights!

AGAIN -- Be proud of your accomplishments today and welcome. [Congratulations.](#)

September 14, 2007

Final Hearing of the Swearing in of New Citizens

*Gregory W. Townsend, Legislator
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