September 18, 2006

Fact Sheet

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service Form Partnership to Enhance Meaning and Stature of Naturalization Ceremonies

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has developed a partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to enhance the meaning and stature of naturalization ceremonies. There is an enduring connection between the American people and the national parks, and these historic and often picturesque sites provide a perfect backdrop to naturalization ceremonies. The partnership, in turn, will allow NPS to build connections between new citizens and America's parks. Close to 50 national parks have expressed an interest in hosting naturalization ceremonies

The USCIS/NPS partnership will:

- Match District Offices with National Parks in their jurisdictions that are interested in hosting naturalization ceremonies;
- Support and promote local partnerships already undertaken by District Offices and National Parks; and
- Sponsor a small number of new higher-profile naturalization ceremonies at selected parks that have a link to immigration or civic history.

USCIS will launch a campaign to promote both the partnership and individual naturalization ceremonies at National Parks around the country. The partnership will develop with many citizenship events including special ceremonies focused on Citizenship Day and other national commemorations.

Naturalization ceremonies sponsored by the Office of Citizenship will include keynote speakers from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, USCIS, the National Park Service and other organizations.

Below is a calendar of naturalization ceremonies that have occurred or are being planned for 2006:

National Park	USCIS Office	Dates
Homestead National Monument	Omaha	Flag Day
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Detroit	Flag Day
Saratoga National Historical Park	Albany	Independence Day
San Juan National Historical Park	San Juan	Independence Day
Boston National Historic Park	Boston	Independence Day
Ellis Island National Monument	New York	Citizenship Day

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Jefferson National Expansion Memorial	St. Louis	Citizenship Day
Cabrillo National Monument	San Diego	Constitution Week
Yosemite National Park	Fresno sub-office	Constitution Week
Charles Pinckney National Historic Site	Charleston sub-office	Citizenship Day
Homestead National Monument	Omaha	Citizenship Day
National Mall & Memorial Parks	Washington	Citizenship Day
Great Sand Dunes National Park	Denver	Constitution Day

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES AT NATIONAL PARKS SEPTEMBER 17-23

Sunday, September 17th

- National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington DC

Monday, September 18th

- Ellis Island National Monument in New York, NY
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, MO
- Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, NE
- Charles Pinckney National Historical Site in Charleston, SC

Wednesday, September 20

- Cabrillo National Monument (Military Naturalization) in San Diego, CA

Friday, September 22

- Yosemite National Park in Sierra Nevada, CA
- Great Sand Dunes National Park in Mosca, CO

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