

For Immediate Release:

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Jesse White Hosts Illinois' 12th Annual U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day Celebration
65 people from 32 countries to be sworn in as citizens

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White held the state's 12th annual U.S. Constitution and Citizenship Day Celebration today. The event commemorated the 235th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, which took place on Sept. 17, 1787. U.S. District Court Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer naturalized 65 people from various countries.

"Today's celebration is an opportunity for us to commemorate the signing of the document that laid the foundation for our great nation," White said. "In witnessing people from other nations taking the oath of citizenship, we can reflect on what it means to be an American."

The event, held at Richard J. Daley Plaza, included a naturalization ceremony and patriotic musical selections. U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois John Lausch Jr. and U.S. District Court Judge Pallmeyer motioned and administered the naturalization ceremony. Today's new citizens were from Algeria, Armenia, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Yemen.

Cheryl Scott, meteorologist from ABC 7 Chicago, served as emcee for the event. Officials from the U.S. District Court and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, as well as Bugles Across America, and the Lincoln Park High School Color Guard participated in the ceremony.

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