



News Release

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Mayor McAdams Welcomes New American Citizens At Naturalization Ceremony

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Mayor McAdams spoke about the power of the immigrant spirit during his address at Wednesday's naturalization ceremony. Approximately 400 people from across the globe were sworn in as American citizens at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City.

"My fellow Americans, congratulations on becoming citizens of the United States of America," said Mayor McAdams. "I encourage you to fully embrace and be proud of your new American identity, but to also remember your roots. Let them be the strong foundation as you grow here in your adopted home."

Seventy-nine countries were represented at the naturalization ceremony, with ages ranging from 19 to 78 years old. Nearly 400 people of different ethnicity, religious background, and immigrant stories stood side-by-side to pledge allegiance to their new country.

Many of those sworn in today left their home countries to escape hardships and find new opportunities. Burundian refugee Jean De Dieu Bivahagumye was among those who raised their hands to take the sacred oath.

"I am so excited to be a United States' citizen, so I can feel that I am legally and safely living here," said Mr. Bivahagumye.

Mayor McAdams praised the freedoms we have in the United States and shared with the immigrants the importance of participation in their new democracy.

"As Americans, you have the freedom of speech, religion, and the right to cast a secure ballot. I ask you to use the power of citizenship to advance those rights," said Mayor McAdams.

Mayor McAdams also noted that our nation was founded by immigrants and is continually enriched by their tenacious character. With variety of experiences comes a

wealth of ideas that in turn helps our country to prosper.

A naturalization ceremony occurs every two months in the state of Utah. More information on the process of becoming an American citizen can be found here: www.uscis.gov.

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