



**District Court of Guam**  
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CHAMBER OF  
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## **DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY** **Court Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

On January 20, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., the District Court of Guam will proudly host a special Naturalization Ceremony in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On this day, the District Court of Guam will welcome 42 new citizens to the United States of America, as they take their oath of citizenship. These soon-to-be citizens hail from the countries of Indonesia, Philippines and South Korea.

The keynote speaker during the ceremony will be Charles “Chuck” Ellis. Chuck Ellis is from Claremont, Virginia and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. On May 18, 1990, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. After 10 years on active duty, Chuck joined the U.S. Marshals Service and continued his military service in the Marine Corps Reserve. He deployed to Iraq in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he earned a Bronze Star. Today he is a Colonel and is the Deputy Commander of the 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in Fort Worth, Texas. Chuck Ellis is currently the Chief Deputy United States Marshal for the districts of Guam & Northern Mariana Islands. He has a Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

This year’s celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the District Court will also allow the newly naturalized citizens to fully exercise their rights as American citizens, as the court will also host a Citizenship Outreach Program for the new citizens immediately after the naturalization ceremony. Representatives from the Guam Passport Office and the Guam Election Commission will be present after the ceremony to assist these new citizens with any questions. The new citizens will be able to register to vote and apply for a United States passport.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an United States holiday to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who is widely regarded as the preeminent driving force behind the civil rights movement in the late 1950’s and ‘60s to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. In 1963, Dr. King delivered his extraordinary “I Have a Dream” speech in front of 250,000 people at the national mall during the March on Washington, which prompted Congress to pass the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 1964, Dr. King led the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama March for Voting Rights, which inspired Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“Although we have made great strides to make this country more free and more fair by securing civil rights, voting rights, and eliminating legalized discrimination, all Americans must join together to live up to the promise made at our founding: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,’” remarked Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood.