



District Court of Guam
4TH FLOOR, U.S. COURTHOUSE
520 WEST SOLEDAD AVENUE
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910



CHAMBER OF
Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge

TEL: (671) 473-9200
FAX: (671) 473-9186

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2015

For More Information, Contact
Cynthia Palacios at 473-9200

DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Court Celebrates Presidents Day

In commemoration of Presidents Day, the District Court of Guam will host a special Presidents Day Ceremony to be held on Friday, February 13, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. On this day, the District Court of Guam will welcome 34 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 Japan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Underwood, the 10th President of the University of Guam, and has served in this capacity since 2008. He was a Member of the 103-107th U.S. Congress (1993-2003) during which he sponsored major legislation for Guam, played an active role in Department of Defense authorization bills and was a forceful advocate for political development for insular areas and the extension of educational and social opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Highlights of his public service include an appointment to the National Advisory Council on Bilingual Education during President Carter's administration and an appointment by President Obama to the National Board of Education Sciences.

Presidents Day honors George Washington's birthday and all who have served as President of the United States. "It is a privilege to preside over this ceremony on Presidents Day. As we honor the remarkable legacies of our country's presidents, such as George Washington -- whose accomplishments include the establishment of the United States federal judiciary -- we will also celebrate our newly naturalized citizens. For many, it has been a long road, and on February 13, their dream will become a reality. I am proud to be among the first to greet them as fellow Americans," stated Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

This year's celebration will also allow the 34 newly naturalized citizens to fully exercise their rights, as the court will host a Citizenship Outreach Program for these citizens. Immediately after the naturalization ceremony, these new citizens will be able to register to vote and apply for a U.S. passport, provided they have the appropriate supporting documentation for the application. Representatives from the Guam Election Commission and the Guam Passport Office will be present after the ceremony to assist these new citizens with any questions.