



District Court of Guam

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DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Court Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

In August of 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in front of 250,000 people at the national mall and delivered a powerful speech, sharing his dream of racial equality in a nation where its Constitution was founded on equality, that “all men are created equal.” It was this dream of racial equality that resulted in landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This month, the District Court of Guam celebrates this man, who changed the course of America through years of nonviolent resistance. The District Court of Guam, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, will host a special Naturalization Ceremony, on **January 20, 2016, 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 India, Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan. The keynote speaker during the ceremony will be Mr. Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education.

This year's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday 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 34 new citizens with any questions. The new citizens will be able to apply for a United States passport and more importantly, to register to vote.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is a national holiday commemorating his life and legacy, what he stood for, and the extraordinary strides he made to help shape this nation to what it is today. It is a day we must all remember as Americans, as we continue to strive to uphold what he so strongly fought for and to uphold the ideals of our founding fathers when they established this nation's Constitution,” remarked Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood.