



**District Court of Guam**  
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CHAMBER OF  
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**DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY**  
**Court Celebrates America's 242nd Birthday**

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., the District Court of Guam will proudly host a Naturalization Ceremony in celebration of Independence Day. The court will welcome 28 new citizens who hail from the countries of the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea. The soon-to-be citizens will take their oath to bear faith and allegiance to our great nation, the United States of America, which they will also proudly call their own from that day forward as fellow Americans.

The keynote speaker for this special naturalization ceremony will be the Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpí, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico. For over two decades, as an attorney and federal judge, Chief Judge Gelpí has participated in numerous cases dealing with the constitutional status of Puerto Rico, as well as the rights of U.S. citizens who reside in the territory. He serves as an adjunct professor of law and has taught in Puerto Rico and in Hawai'i a course about the constitutional development of overseas U.S. territories. He also authored various publications about the subject, including his recent book *The Constitutional Evolution of Puerto Rico and Other U.S. Territories 1898-Present*. "It is a rare opportunity to have another U.S. territorial judge from across the Atlantic join me in congratulating our new fellow Americans to our great nation," remarked Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood.

Every Fourth of July, our great nation celebrates the historic day in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed by the Founding Fathers and the representatives from the 13 colonies, declaring themselves a sovereign and independent nation. The Declaration of Independence is a well-known statement of human rights in American history . . . "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."

To further encourage the newly naturalized citizens to fully exercise their rights, the Court will also host a Citizenship Outreach Program. Immediately after the naturalization ceremony, the new citizens may register to vote and apply for a U.S. passport, provided they have 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.