



District Court of Guam
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CHAMBER OF
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Chief Judge

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DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
Court Celebrates America's 243rd Birthday

On Wednesday, July 3, 2019, 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 45 new citizens who hail from the countries of China, India, Japan, Peru, the Philippines, and South 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 Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Commander for Joint Region Marianas and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas/U.S. Pacific Command; and Senior Military Official in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Rear Admiral Chatfield was recently named as the president of the U.S. Naval War College, the first woman to hold such position.

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. "It is very fitting to have Rear Admiral Chatfield serve as the keynote speaker for our Independence Day Celebration. If anyone knows about fighting for our freedom, it would be her," said Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood. "I would like to thank her and all the service members of the armed forces for continuing to fight for our freedom and protecting this great nation and our island."

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, the Guam Passport Office, and the Social Security Administration will be present after the ceremony to assist these new citizens with any questions.