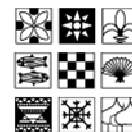


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2012
Cease Date: July 5, 2012
CONTACT: Maria Kesovija
Ph: 206-443-1410
ehc@seattle.gov

Ethnic Heritage Council |
305 Harrison St. #304, Seattle WA 98109 |
Ph: 206-443-1410 | Fax: 206-443-1408 |
ehc@seattle.gov | www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org |



28th ANNUAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

WHAT: 28th Annual Naturalization Ceremony

Color photos available upon request, see below.

WHEN: July 4, 2012, Wednesday - 11:00 a.m. concert; 12 noon ceremony

WHERE: Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center, FREE

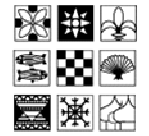
On **July 4, 2012**, the **Ethnic Heritage Council** will host the **28th Annual Naturalization Ceremony** at Seattle Center, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Over 500 candidates, from more than 80 countries, will be sworn in by **The Honorable Richard C. Tallman, U.S. Circuit Court Judge**, as new citizens of the United States of America. Produced by the **Ethnic Heritage Council, Seattle Center**, and the **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services**, and brought to you by **Bank of America**, this is by far one of the most meaningful and moving Fourth of July events in the region. While this is an especially important day for the many new citizens, coming from a variety of nations and cultures, it arouses great interest among friends and families as well as from the community at large. The Naturalization Ceremony also serves to reaffirm the deeper meaning of citizenship of the United States of America. The public is encouraged to attend the free event.

The ceremony will include speeches by **United States Senator Maria Cantwell, Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, U.S. Representative Jim McDermott**, with **Seattle City Mayor Mike McGinn** as Master of Ceremonies.



28th Annual Naturalization Ceremony is produced by the **Ethnic Heritage Council**, a non-profit organization formed in 1980, **Seattle Center** and **United States Department of Homeland Security**. Brought to you by **Bank of America**, and proudly sponsored by **Seattle Center, PEMCO Insurance, City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Rotary Club of the Seattle-International District, Seattle Post #1-American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution-Rainier Chapter** and supported by and supported by **The Seattle Foundation, Canonicus Fund and Refugee & Immigrant Children's Program-Lutheran Community Services NW**. Since its inception, the Council has worked to promote inter-ethnic communication and cultural preservation in the Northwest.

EHC Annual Events - photos by Jal: Naturalization Ceremony; Annual Dinner; Cultural Crossroads; Winter Worldfest.
Photos by Jal Schrof © EHC. Visit: www.pbase.com/jal; www.pbase.com/jal/naturalization2011



The **Greenwood Concert Band**, directed by William Blayney, will perform festive selections beginning at 11:00am. The **United States Army Color Guard** will present the colors at the commencement of the ceremony, 12noon. The formal program will last one hour, beginning with a performance by Native American performers **Gene Tagaban, Swil Kanim & Peter Ali**. The **Total Experience Gospel Choir**, directed by **Patrinell Wright**, will also perform during the ceremony. All countries represented will be announced and the eldest applicant for citizenship will be introduced. The **Children of the World** will lead the new citizens in reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance* for their first time.



Each year, the Ethnic Heritage Council honors a naturalized citizen who has made outstanding contribution to his or her adopted country, the U.S.A., while maintaining his or her ethnic heritage. Congressman Jim McDermott will present the **2012 "Spirit of Liberty Award"**.



28th Annual Naturalization Ceremony is produced by the **Ethnic Heritage Council**, a non-profit organization formed in 1980, **Seattle Center** and **United States Department of Homeland Security**. Brought to you by **Bank of America**, and proudly sponsored by **Seattle Center, PEMCO Insurance, City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Rotary Club of the Seattle-International District, Seattle Post #1-American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution-Rainier Chapter** and supported by and supported by **The Seattle Foundation, Canonicus Fund and Refugee & Immigrant Children's Program-Lutheran Community Services NW**. Since its inception, the Council has worked to promote inter-ethnic communication and cultural preservation in the Northwest.

EHC Annual Events - photos by Jal: Naturalization Ceremony; Annual Dinner; Cultural Crossroads; Winter Worldfest. Photos by Jal Schrof © EHC. Visit: www.pbase.com/jal; www.pbase.com/jal/naturalization2011