

Press Releases

01-18-11 Clerk Benson Administers Oath of Allegiance at Naturalization Ceremony

Orange County welcomes 57 new U.S. Citizens from 31 countries

Orange County Clerk Donna L. Benson administered the Oath of Allegiance on Friday, January 14 at a naturalization ceremony hosted at the Orange County Government Center in Goshen, presided by the Honorable John K. McGuirk, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Clerk Benson said, "I am very honored to swear you in today as new citizens. We know you have made many sacrifices, leaving your homeland, your families, your friends, your businesses, but we are glad you are here to contribute to America's melting pot."



Goshen's Government Center hosts swearing-in ceremony of fifty-seven naturalized U.S. citizens Friday, January 14, 2011.

Fifty-seven people from 31 countries took the Oath of Allegiance, the final part of the naturalization process, renouncing all foreign allegiance while pledging to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

Town of Deerpark Supervisor Karl Brabeneck, the featured speaker, said, "Don't be afraid to be active in your community. Respect law enforcement, contribute to this country, and make your mark. Make a great life for your children and grandchildren."



Orange County Clerk Donna Benson administers the Oath of Allegiance in Goshen, the final part of the naturalization process, Friday, January 14, 2011.

The ceremony included a salute to the new citizens by Orange County Sheriff Carl E. DuBois on behalf of the State of New York and the County of Orange, a musical rendition was performed by Rita Lundstrom who sang "America the Beautiful," and, after receiving Certificates of Naturalization by the Court, America's newest citizens were presented with a small American flag compliments of Alice Meola representing the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Other elected officials participating in the celebration included New York State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., Orange County Legislative Chairman Michael R. Pillmeier, and Town of New Windsor Councilman Eric Lundstrom. Former Orange County Legislator Noel Spencer was in attendance, as well as

representatives from New York State Assemblywoman Annie Rabbitt's office.

Deputy County Clerk Mary S. Coleman, and Deputy County Clerk DMV Mary Beth Greene, along with the County Clerk's staff organize 'A Celebration of Citizenship' six times a year at the Orange County Government Center to welcome and congratulate our nation's newest citizens.



Rita Lundstrom sings 'America the Beautiful' at ceremony for newly naturalized U.S. citizens in Goshen, Friday, January 14, 2011.