

Court Information Release



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76 New Citizens Sworn in at Cantigny Park for Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony

Wheaton, Ill. – On November 10, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted a naturalization ceremony at Cantigny Park. 76 candidates from 31 countries were sworn in as new U.S. citizens. Among the 76, there were 15 active military members who became citizens.

“Cantigny is such a perfect backdrop to celebrate our nation’s newest citizens for this special Veterans Day celebration,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall. “We welcome all our new citizens, and this Veterans Day we recognize that many of those seeking citizenship have already demonstrated courageous commitment to our nation by enlisting and serving in our armed forces.”

Marmion Academy students conducted a colors ceremony, and the Chicago Brass Band provided music.

U.S. service members, veterans and their families may be eligible for certain immigration benefits in recognition of their important sacrifices. Specifically, veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and recently discharged service members may be eligible to become U.S. citizens through naturalization under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Since 2002, USCIS has naturalized more than 187,000 members of the U.S. military, both at home and abroad. Naturalization ceremonies have taken place in more than 30 countries from Albania to the United Arab Emirates. In FY 2024, USCIS naturalized more than 16,290 service members, a 34% increase from the previous year.

Every year thousands of immigrants visit the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to be sworn in as U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies. The district's judges preside over these ceremonies, which take place in both of the district's courthouses and throughout the district. Family and friends gather to watch as new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, a sworn declaration that every citizenship applicant must recite during a formal ceremony in order to become a naturalized American citizen. When taking the Oath, the new citizen promises to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S.

Cantigny is the 500-acre estate of Colonel Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), long-time editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune, and founder of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation. Cantigny houses, among its many amenities, a museum dedicated to the 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

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