

THANK YOU, LINDA, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, AND MY THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF FOR ALL THE GREAT WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO CLEAR THE PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU TODAY FOR WHAT I KNOW IS A LIFE-ALTERING OCCASION FOR THE 30 MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE BECOMING CITIZENS OF THE GREATEST COUNTRY ON EARTH.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW PROUD I AM TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY. I KNOW THAT THE JOURNEY TO CITIZENSHIP IS NOT AN EASY ONE.

I KNOW THE COURAGE IT TAKES TO LEAVE BEHIND ALL THAT IS FAMILIAR...

TO CHART A NEW PATH...

TO START A NEW JOURNEY IN A NEW COUNTRY...

TO ESTABLISH YOURSELF IN A FOREIGN LAND AND CREATE A NEW "HOME."

EACH ONE OF YOU WHO IS BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN TODAY HAS PAID YOUR DUES, AND EACH OF YOU

BRINGS DIVERSITY TO OUR DYNAMIC COMMUNITY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND AMERICA, A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THIS IMPORTANT STEP OF BECOMING CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENCOURAGE OTHERS, INCLUDING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, TO DO THE SAME.

I ALSO HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ALL THAT BEING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS TO OFFER.

AMONG THE MANY PRIVILEGES OF BEING A U.S. CITIZEN, YOU NOW HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL EXERCISE YOUR CIVIC DUTY.

YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN HOW OUR COUNTY AND OUR COUNTRY ARE GOVERNED. I URGE YOU TO STAY INFORMED OF THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ACT AS ENGAGED CITIZENS.

CITIZENSHIP IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON BECOMING CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY!

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND CONTINUE TO BLESS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!**

