

Salutation
July 4, 2015

Good Morning! And Welcome! To our 12th annual citizenship ceremony! My name is George Malinoski, and I am the President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, National Society Sons of the American Revolution. I bring to you the warmest greetings and best wishes from the Saratoga Battle Chapter, the Empire State Society SAR, and the National Society. Something you might be interested in knowing, today the NSSAR consists of over 32,000 members in over 500 chapters in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom. Over 192,000 descendants of the men and women Patriots of the American Revolution have been admitted to the NSSAR since our founding.

Today is America's Birthday, for on July Fourth, 239 years ago, the Declaration of Independence was signed. You who have chosen today to take the oath of allegiance to become American citizens could not have picked a more auspicious date and site to make this commitment. This National Park is full of scenic beauty and rich in America's history in its struggle for independence. Without the American victory won on this battlefield, the American Revolution very well might have been lost. Truly, the American triumph here is correctly referred to as the 'Turning Point of the American Revolution'.

Although I've yet to locate a patriot ancestor who was present on this hallowed battlefield in 1777, my ancestors nonetheless rigorously supported the War of American Independence. In fact, one of my patriot ancestors was actually a British soldier stationed in Boston who felt so strongly about individual freedom and liberty that he deserted the British Army in 1774 and joined the American Patriots in their fight for independence. Another ancestor, whose family originally came to this country in the 1600s from France served as a drummer and was present at the very start of the war at Lexington and Concord Massachusetts. His family fled France due to religious persecution. And yet another branch of my family came to America from Russian controlled Poland in the late 1800s with the dream of starting a new life in this country. The common thread for my ancestors was the hope and potential that America offered them in the form of freedom and liberty to build a better, more successful life in this very blessed country. No doubt, many of you share these same hopes and dreams, and the action you are taking today to become American citizens is another bold step on your journey to realize these hopes and dreams for you and your family.

As one of the many people who helped to make this event possible I am proud that on these scenic and hallowed grounds, on America's Birthday, we gather to celebrate you, our newest citizens. I applaud you, offer you congratulations on becoming American citizens, and wish you every success in all that you seek to achieve in this great Nation!