

Harrisonburg Lodge 450 Presents Flags to 72 New Citizens



Newly minted U.S. citizen Hunar Ahmad Canybee (right) receives an American flag from Lodge 450 Exalted Ruler Roger Monger after taking the Oath of Citizenship and receiving his citizenship certificate. (Photo courtesy of News-Leader)



U.S. District Court Judge James G. Welsh (center) congratulates newly minted U.S. citizen Oscar Carino Aparicio (left) on his having taken the Oath of Citizenship. (Photo courtesy of News-Leader)

Harrisonburg Lodge 450 presented United States Flags to seventy two new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies held September Twentieth at The Museum of Frontier Culture at Staunton, Virginia. Congressman Bob Goodlatte spoke to the new citizens. Delegate Dickie Bell was the keynote speaker. U.S. District Court Judge James G. Welsh presided over the ceremonies and personally presented each new citizen with their Naturalization Certificates. Several of the new citizens spoke to the audience about their thoughts and feelings about this important day in their lives. Some spoke of the freedoms and opportunities they had here that they could not enjoy in their native countries. Many offered thanks to everyone who helped them through the arduous process of gaining their citizenship. Staunton Lodge 351 served pizza and soft drinks to those present after the ceremonies.