

Dutchess County Deputy Clerk Bryan Cranna's Remarks at the
August 2008 Naturalization Ceremony

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once said, Europe is a product of history. America is a product of philosophy.

How true those words are. America was given life by those who believed in a common goal, were willing to shed their blood for what they believed in, and we're willing to take a monumental chance by forming, molding, and creating a new nation. A nation that would be governed by the voices of its people, not by a monarch, or tradition.

The philosophies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Franklin, created what has become the strongest nation in the world.

In many ways, ***my fellow Americans***, you like those historical figures who walked before us, have so much in common with those pioneers. You're philosophies for a better life, the risks that you have taken, and the goals you set for you and your families will surely add to the success of this wonderful nation.

Like the admiration I have for those courageous souls, who assembled in Philadelphia in 1776, I too admire you for your philosophies. How daring, how brave, how remarkably strong you all are.

I encourage all of you today to continue the journey of becoming an American. The oath you have just sworn must not be the last step. It must only be the beginning. To be an American, must be to **give back to America**. Please register to vote and let your voices be heard at the ballot box. Run for office yourselves. Volunteer. Write letters to the editors about your communities. And please remind others whose lifelines begin here, that they too must remember what **it means to be an American**. It is an amazing gift, one that must not be taken lightly.

Congratulations my friends, I look forward to working with all of you to continue making this nation the greatest nation in the world.

May God bless you, and may he continue to look down and bless this nation we so proudly call home.