

## 500 new citizens take the oath in mass ceremony

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### **Body**

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In the largest naturalization ceremony in Georgia this year, 500 new citizens gathered today in the grand salon of the Atlanta Hilton to take the oath to forswear all former national allegiances and to serve the United States when called.

"I am happy," said Fang Li Chung, a former citizen of Taiwan, who works in a metro day care center and has lived in the United States for more than five years.

Fang's husband and two children watched her take the oath. They expect to become citizens within a year.

U.S. Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-Ky.) gave the keynote speech to group, which included immigrants from four continents and numerous islands. Former citizens of India and Nigeria were the most numerous, with more than 30 new citizens from each.

Sharon and Errol Babb of College Park, formerly of Trinidad and Tobago, have lived in the United States for 25 years and have three children who were born here. Their 4-year-old sat with them during the ceremony.

Mazzoli, whose Italian-born father was naturalized 75 years ago, urged opponents of immigration to consider the benefits immigration brings the United States. "The myths of immigration are that it deletes, depletes, denies and reduces," said the congressman. In fact, "it enhances and restores, refreshes and strengthens."

He urged the new citizens to become a fuller part of the United States by registering to vote and serving as an example to their communities.

"The American dream exists - it is alive and well," Mazzoli said.

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