

Battalion Classifieds

Judge declares 261 aliens from 52 nation American citizens

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In a mass citizenship ceremony coinciding with the 202nd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, 261 people representing 52 nationalities became citizens.

U.S. Magistrate John Primomo gave the oath of citizenship to the group Sunday at Trinity University. They were part of more than 1,000 people who became citizens this week in the San Antonio district of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm and U.S. District Judge Emilio M. Garza spoke to the crowd and told their families' stories of citizenship.

"There is no other country where immigrants can be told 'your children can become president,'" Gramm said to about 500 people attending the ceremony.

Gramm told the story of his wife, Wendy, and her family's struggle to become Americans.

In 1906 a Korean man shipped to Hawaii as an indentured servant, forced to work on a sugar cane plantation there to pay off debts.

He picked his wife out of a picture book and later became a citizen of the United States. Eighty-three years later, his granddaughter, Gramma's wife, is chairwoman of the Committee on Future Trading Commission in Washington, D.C., and oversees 80 percent of the sugar trading the free world.

A federal judge here since last year, Garza told of a woman born in Mexico who became a naturalized citizen June 7, 1944.

She had an eighth-grade education and her husband had a high school education, but they raised three children who each earned a college degree.

"The second of those three children is standing before you today said 42-year-old Garza.

Young couple keeps faith as first baby beats death

BROWNWOOD, Texas (AP) — On a recent Sunday at Locker Baptist Church, the Rev. Dennis Hester delivered a sermon on the testing of faith.

He preached a similar sermon a week before his infant daughter was born with multiple birth defects.

He says that since that sermon in July, his faith has been tested as he saw his daughter fight for life at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center.

Seven-week-old Katie Hester has surprised physicians and surgeons at the Fort Worth hospital by not only surviving those first traumatic weeks, but improving to the point where she can be cared for at home.

"When the doctors saw our baby and realized her many birth defects, they didn't give us any encouragement and indicated that she most likely would never leave the hospital," said Katie's mother, Susan Hester. "They held out no hope at all that she could be bottle-fed."

Today, however, Katie sucks on a small bottle of prescription formula.

Katie was born July 29 at Hendrick Medical Center and soon after birth was flown to the Fort Worth hospital where doctors performed a colostomy and repaired a hole in her intestines.

Among her birth defects was a non-functioning kidney and one that has about one percent kidney action. Her doctors say Katie will need a transplant sometime next summer, Hester said.

There appears to be no problem that her heart is on the right side of her body. "The front of her heart instead of being on the left side facing forward, is on the right side facing her back, but the heartbeat is normal," Hester said.

The baby was born without an anus or vagina, but surgeons agree that both defects can be repaired later.

According to her father, Katie eats fairly well for a baby with kidney failure.

At birth she weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and at a checkup earlier this month tipped the scales at 7 pounds 4 ounces.

"All things considered, she much like any other baby, crying her bottle, unhappy when she is wet or loses her pacifier," Hester said.

Most mothers aren't too thrilled changing diapers, but for the Hesters, a soiled or wet diaper is a test that their daughter is holding her own, functioning as normally as a baby with such serious birth defects can function.

The Hesters were going to get back to their work and lives as the baby's birth. Hester will resume his pastorate and his job at Mr. G.

"All things considered, she is much like any other baby, crying for her bottle, unhappy when she is wet or loses her pacifier."

— Dennis Hester, father

ti's, and his wife has enrolled for last year at Howard Payne University.

The couple takes turns staying home with Katie. They have worked out a schedule where one or the other is always at home. Katie had her first checkup, Brownwood Pediatrician Dr. Hal Woodruff said, "She is doing remarkably well."

Keeping up with the required medicines isn't a simple matter. Katie must take six different medicines a day. In addition to the special formula, the baby must have five different colostomy supplies, which are used daily.

Katie seems to have a normal sleep pattern for a baby her age. Many times she sleeps from five to six hours at a time, especially at night.

"We feel that the Lord has blessed us with our baby and we have grown tremendously... both as a couple and in our Christian faith," Hester said.

Group to ask legislature to finance fish farming

AUSTIN (AP) — A new state committee voted Monday to ask the November special legislative session for nearly \$650,000 to develop an aquaculture industry that one lawmaker said could develop into a \$1 billion industry within the next several years.

Aquaculture, or commercial fish farming, "is a fledgling industry that is beginning to grow," said Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena. "We feel reasonably sure we might be able to build an industry that may become a billion dollar industry within five to seven years."

Brooks met with the Aquaculture Executive Committee, which includes state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, state Land Commissioner Garry Mauro and Chuck Nash, chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The 1989 Legislature transferred regulatory authority over fish farming from parks and wildlife to agriculture. But Hightower, who was elected committee chairman, said Gov. Bill Clements vetoed funding carry out that task.

The committee voted to ask for a special legislative session to request \$373,496 in state regulatory money and to provide an additional \$275,000 to run the Aquaculture Liaison Office. A maximum salary of \$58,000 was designated for the liaison officer, with Hightower called for a national search to fill the job.

Mauro said aquaculture nationally represents an \$8.8 billion industry and "Texas doesn't have its share."

"We're in the oil game, Mauro said. "We ought to be in the fish game."

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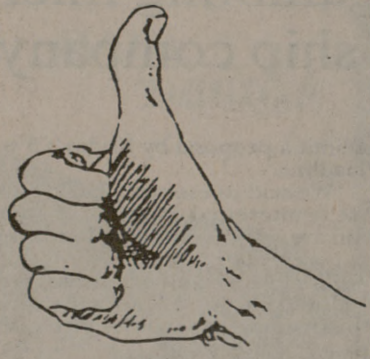
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