

old, my dad signed her certificate of U.S. Citizenship for her. Now was the final step. With a very serious look on his face the INS officer read Mia the Oath of Allegiance. Mia stood on a chair in front of the officer's desk and listened carefully as if she understood, nodding her head when appropriate. It brought tears and smiles to all of our faces. She also received a letter from President Clinton congratulating her on becoming a U.S. citizen. So, I'm glad America is a nation of immigrants because without immigration to the U.S., I wouldn't have my beautiful little sister.

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Samantha Fonseca-Moreira)

America without immigrants, would be like a patchwork quilt without the patches. Without immigrants there would be no colors. The immigrants bring the colors to the quilt because of their different cultures, religions and skin color. They came to this country for different reasons; freedom, starting a new life, making money and worshiping any way they choose. Without immigrants America would not have become the great nation that it is today.

The thread that sews the quilt together is made from the struggles and hard times that many immigrants had to go through when they came to the United States. One of the reasons that the quilt is so strong and beautiful is that we have worked hard together to make America a better country by creating rules that are fair for everyone. The individual patches are needed to create the beauty of the quilt. Together they combined to form the patterns that make the quilt complete.

The stuffing is made up of generations and generations of new Americans that met and married, a German with an Irish, a Chinese with a Portuguese, a Greek with a French, for a Brazilian with a Canadian. Only in the United States could this be possible. They bring stories and heritages that become part of America. The quilt is a never ending project. New immigrants arrive every day creating their own patches of the American quilt.

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS—I CAN BE ME IN AMERICA

(By Mandi Steiner)

I am who I am, and you are who you are
If you believe in me, and I believe in you,
We each can be a shining star
In our land of the red, white, and blue.
You are my sister, and you are my brother
It doesn't matter if you are Italian or Greek,
Let's remember to be kind to each other,
And respect the language we happen to speak.

We can learn so many new things,
About all the cultures that we meet
That we can travel without wings
By talking to new friends on our street.
I greet you with "Hola", and you say "Bon Jour,"
But I know what you mean by the smile on your face.
So hand in hand we walk down the block to the store,
Not ever caring about color or race.
I feel lucky to sample the flavors we share
Chop suey, chili, and falafels galore
We sing, we eat, we show that we care.
We enjoy and then come back for more.

I am who I am, and you are who you are
We have roots to keep us proud without fear
Although we may have come from very far,
In America our voice will be heard loud and clear.

IMMIGRANTS ARE THE KEY

(By Kayla Weinstein)

Do you always think the grass is green,
Morning, evening, in-between?
Look much closer and you'll see
So many colors blend to be.

So many fishes in the sea
Designs and colors running free
But all are one and come together
Making life there so much better.

Blue's not the color of the sky
Both day and night I'll tell you why,
Pinks, oranges, purples must be seen
And all the colors in-between

And what about the pot of soup?
Beans, broccoli, peas and more to scoop
Each has a flavor of its own.
Together's when its name is known.

Our country's something of the same
All people share their county's fame
Were richer when we come together
Learning, sharing makes us better.

Difference makes our nation richer
Like juice for punch in one big pitcher
Like grass, like sky, like soup, like sea
Our land of immigrants is key!

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2431. An act to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3150. An act to amend title 11, of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5735. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EIC Eligibility Requirements" (RIN1545-AV62) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5736. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit, or Abatement; Determination of Correct Tax Liability" (Rev. Proc. 98-38) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5737. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a cost comparison of the Master Personnel Records function at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5738. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a cost comparison of the Supply and Transportation functions at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5739. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Ohio" (FRL6116-9) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5740. A communication from the Executive Director of the Presidio Trust, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Management of the Presidio" (RIN3212-AA00) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5741. A communication from the Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Supervisors and Strategic Human Resources Management"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5742. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting Requirements for Risk/Benefit Information; Amendment and Correction" (RIN2070-AB50) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5743. A communication from the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electric Engineering, Architectural Service and Design Policies and Procedures" (RIN0572-AA48) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5744. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice that a reward has been paid to Rewards Program Participant 96-21; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5745. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Establishment of the Medicare+Choice Program" (RIN0938-AI29) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5746. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Coverage of and Payment for Bone Mass Measurements" (RIN0938-AI89) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5747. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to money purchase pension plans (Rev. Proc. 98-42) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5748. A communication from the National Director of the Tax Forms and Publications Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to specifications for the private printing of substitute forms W-2 and W-3 (Rev. Proc. 98-33) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5749. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employment in the Senior Executive Service; Promotion and Internal Placement" (RIN3206-AH92) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5750. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Retirement System—Open Enrollment Act Implementation" (RIN3206-AG96) received on June 25, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.