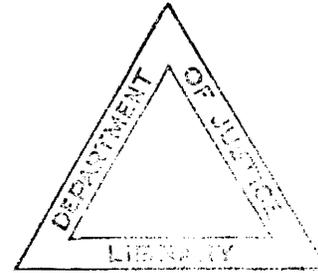


REMARKS OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES P. McGRANERY
at
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
"CITIZENSHIP DAY" OBSERVANCE
at
Washington Monument Grounds
Wednesday, September 17, 1952



We are gathered in an assembly that marks another milestone in the progress of our Republic. At this Memorial to the Father of our Country, we pay tribute from our hearts and minds to the First Citizen - first in war, in peace and in the hearts of his countrymen - and we honor his spiritual children: the citizens of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Pursuant to the Joint Congressional Resolution approved by our own great President, establishing "Citizenship Day" on September Seventeenth, we commemorate the signing of the Constitution one hundred sixty-five years ago.

Citizenship Day is an occasion to re-dedicate ourselves to the democratic ideals of our Founding Fathers, with solemn thanksgiving for our precious heritage - the right of every man to find his own way to God.

It is a day to renew our faith in the eternal principles of the brotherhood of man born of one Eternal Father. It is a time to rekindle our courage and to reawaken vigilance - in order that our form of government may be preserved by the active participation of all American citizens.

At this morning's session of the National Conference on Citizenship, fifty-five men and women from other shores became American citizens through naturalization proceedings by the United States Federal Court. If any happen to be residents of the District of Columbia - they will be unable to exercise the most sacred duty of the citizen, namely, the right to vote. Before

another Citizenship Day dawns, the residents of our Capital City should be granted the right to the franchise in accordance with the fullness of their American inheritance.

In a few moments the representatives of the Governors of the Thirteen Original States will lay wreaths honoring the signers of the Constitution, and honoring all the States, Territories, and Possessions of the United States, and our men in the Armed Services in Korea and elsewhere.

I know that you who are gathered here this afternoon join me in giving a public expression of appreciation to the Governors of the Thirteen States, and to their representatives who are participating. I wish to congratulate Commissioner Donohue, Colonel Leonard, and all those who contributed to this magnificent ceremony.