

A presidential visit on the Fourth of July

MONTICELLO'S 46th annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony featured the participation of President George W. Bush.

Bush became the fourth sitting U.S. president to attend Independence Day ceremonies at Monticello, joining Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936), Harry S. Truman (1947), and Gerald R. Ford (1976). However, because Roosevelt and Truman made their appearances before the swearing-in of new citizens became part of Monticello's observance in 1963, and because the 1976 event was held on July 5,

Bush became the first U.S. president to participate in a naturalization ceremony at Monticello on the Fourth of July.

Seventy-two adults from 30 different countries became U.S. citizens during the proceedings. The president greeted each of the new Americans shortly after the oath of citizenship was administered.

More than 3,000 people attended the event, for which public tickets were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Six anti-administration protesters were removed from the West Lawn during Bush's speech, but no charges were filed.



TJF photos by Stephanie Gross



Above, some of the 72 people from 30 different countries who were naturalized at the event. Right above, President Bush with Julia White Freeman, 8, who received a certificate of citizenship. Right below, Monticello's Daniel P. Jordan describes items in Jefferson's Cabinet to President George W. Bush and Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine during their tour of the house, which preceded the July 4 ceremony.

COMMENTS?
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Thomas Jefferson
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