

Linda S. Boyd
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Clyde Hill, WA 98004

Honorable Judge Paul deFonzo
Immigration Court
1000 Second Avenue, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98104

I am a U.S. citizen, a full-time parent, and have lived in Washington State for over twenty years. I am writing to urge you to immediately grant United States citizenship to Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry. His service to our country and his community, as well as this country's promise to confer naturalization for serving honorably in the U.S. Army, demand an end to the immoral equivocation that has beleaguered his family for so many years.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Chaudhry more than ten years ago and have spoken to him and his wife, Ann Chaudhry, at peace and justice events over the years. Mr. Chaudhry has always been respectful and positive when we've spoken. His English is outstanding and his understanding and love of our country and culture is remarkable. I've never heard Mr. Chaudhry say anything exaggerated or negative about the events that have so impacted his life, employment and health.

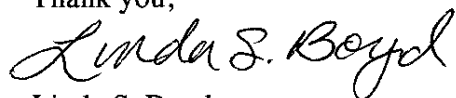
The love and devotion shared between Ann and Mr. Chaudhry is always evident. At no time have I had reason to question their bonds of marriage, devotion to their children or good will to their community. I can only imagine how the years of court hearings and threats of separation have affected Ann, Zahid, their children and extended families. No American child should be required to endure continuous threats to their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Chaudhry, their children and community deserve to be able to focus on the future in peace rather than live under the threat of separation.

Mr. Chaudhry lost the use of his legs in service to the United States. As a veteran he deserves to receive the best care available through the Veterans Administration, but this essential medical care would be difficult to obtain in Pakistan. He also deserves to become an American citizen and to live honorably and legally in the country he loves.

** Please note that I have copied pertinent information about naturalization through military service below.

I urge you to demonstrate that the laws and officials of the United States support American values such as equality before the law, defense of liberty and the right to pursue happiness. Mr. Chaudhry has done his part. I urge you to do your part by conferring United States citizenship upon him immediately.

Thank you,



Linda S. Boyd
Former director of Eastside Fellowship of Reconciliation

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<https://www.uscis.gov/news/fact-sheets/naturalization-through-military-service-fact-sheet>

Service in Peacetime

Section 328 of the INA applies to all members of the U.S. armed forces and those already discharged from service. An individual may qualify for naturalization if he or she has:

- Served honorably in the U.S. armed forces for at least one year,
- Obtained lawful permanent resident status, and
- Meets the other general requirements for naturalization.

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Service during Periods of Hostilities

The President signed an executive order on July 3, 2002, authorizing all noncitizens who have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to file for citizenship under section 329 of the INA. Section 329 also covers veterans of certain designated past wars and conflicts. The authorization related to the War on Terrorism will remain in effect until a date designated by a future presidential executive order.

Naturalization at Basic Training

USCIS established the Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative in August 2009 with the Army to give noncitizen enlistees the opportunity to naturalize when they graduate from basic training. Under this initiative, USCIS conducts all naturalization processing including the capture of biometrics, the naturalization interview and administration of the *Oath of Allegiance* on the military installation. Since 2009 USCIS has expanded the initiative to the Navy, Air Force, and finally to the Marine Corps in 2013, giving enlistees of these branches equal opportunity to (in most cases) leave basic training as U.S. citizens.