

## **U. S. Naturalization Ceremony Highlights National Library Week**

—NEWS RELEASE—

(April 12, 2018 — Hartford, CT) — National Library Week (April 8-14) hit a high note today as 50 new American citizens took the Oath of Allegiance at Hartford Public Library's main branch in Downtown Hartford. HPL, the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Connecticut's Peer Libraries Citizenship Coalition (PLCC) invited the community to the U. S. Naturalization Ceremony.

The event featured much pageantry, including the presentation of colors, the singing of the national anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance — led by George and Martha Washington impersonators. HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey welcomed the crowd and the Honorable Vanessa L. Bryant, United States District Judge, presided over the ceremony as applicants for citizenship took their oath.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, as well as Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and UConn School of Medicine Dean Dr. Bruce Liang, offered congratulatory remarks.

The Peer Library Citizenship Collaborative (PLCC) is a partnership committed to sharing information, resources, and best practices in order to increase their ability to better serve immigrants in their local communities. These ceremonies provide a way to welcome new citizens and to celebrate the educational and cultural opportunities available to everyone at the library.

Today's ceremony was one of six taking place during National Library Week. Other sites were Danbury, Stamford, New Britain, Norwich, and Vernon.

Earlier this month, Quinn-Carey, Judith Wyman Kelly, Project Coordinator for Teens4Citizenship, and 90 sixth graders from the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication in New London, received the Angela Anderson Award. This annual honor is given to those who demonstrate and embody Anderson's drive and dedication to promoting immigrant and refugee rights in Connecticut. The award presentation took place on April 4 —the 21st Annual Connecticut Immigrant Day — at the State Capitol.

Teens4Citizenship is a Hartford Public Library and Hartford Public Schools collaborative program designed to train immigrant high school students as Citizenship Guides. These Guides support family and community members on their path to citizenship by reviewing the 100 civics questions, demonstrating how to use online learning tools, and providing English conversation practice. Upon turning age 18, Citizenship Guides are also better prepared to seek their own citizenship, and many of done so.

For more information: <https://www.hplct.org/library-services/immigration-citizenship>

### **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place that provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. We serve adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).