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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date: **OCT 24 2008**

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document under Section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1149.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native of the Philippines and a naturalized citizen of the United States. He seeks to have his Certificate of Naturalization corrected under section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1449, to reflect a change in his date of birth from April 3, 1933 to May 5, 1933.

The Director reviewed the applicant's record and determined that a correction to his Certificate of Naturalization was not justified. In his decision, the Director noted that the applicant had claimed the date of birth on the certificate at the time of naturalization. The application was denied accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that his Certificate of Naturalization contains an erroneous date of birth. In support of his assertion, he submits his lawful permanent residency card; his Hawaii Identification Certificate; a statement from the Office of the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Manila, Republic of the Philippines; and a joint affidavit from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], dated November 26, 1998.

Section 338 of the Act provides the statutory authority relating to the contents of a Certificate of Naturalization. In addition, the specific regulations regarding the execution and issuance of Certificates of Naturalization are contained in 8 C.F.R. § 338.5, and provide, in part, that:

- (a) Whenever a Certificate of Naturalization has been delivered which does not conform to the facts shown on the application for naturalization, or a clerical error was made in preparing the certificate, an application for issuance of a corrected certificate, Form N-565, without fee, may be filed by the naturalized person.

- (e) The correction will not be deemed to be justified where the naturalized person later alleges that the name or date of birth which the applicant stated to be his or her correct name or date of birth at the time of naturalization was not in fact his or her own name or date of birth at the time of naturalization.

Based on the evidence contained in the record, the applicant has not established that his Certificate of Naturalization contains Immigration and Naturalization Service (now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)) related clerical errors, and the AAO finds that that the information on the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization conforms to the facts as set forth in his Application for Naturalization, Form N-400. The AAO observes that the applicant also submitted other documents to CIS with the April 3, 1933 date of birth, which include a Form N-XXX, Petition for Name Change; a joint affidavit from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dated October 21, 1998; a baptismal certificate from Iglesia Filipina Independiente, certified on October 16, 1998; and WR-790, Application for Verification of Information from Immigration and Naturalization Service Records. The AAO notes that the record also includes an Optional Form 230 Part 1, Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration; Optional Form 155B, Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration; a statement from the Office of the Civil Registrar, Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Republic of the Philippines, a certificate issued for travel, Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Manila; and an Optional Form 157, Medical Examination of Applicants for United States Visas with the May 5, 1933

date of birth. Despite this evidence of the applicant's May 5, 1933 date of birth, the record indicates that at the time of his naturalization, the applicant testified that his date of birth was April 3, 1933. Accordingly, the Director correctly found that there are no provisions under 8 C.F.R. § 338.5 to justify or to allow for a CIS correction to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization.

Because there are no clerical errors in the present matter, CIS has no statutory authority to make any corrections to the applicant's certificate of naturalization, and only a federal court with jurisdiction over the applicant's naturalization proceedings has the authority to order that an amendment be made to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization, after a hearing in which the Government is provided an opportunity to present its position on the matter. Such a hearing ensues pursuant to a motion to the court for an Order Amending a Certificate of Naturalization. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b). *See also, Chan v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 426 F. Supp. 680 (1976) and *Varghai v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 932 F. Supp. 1245 (1996).

8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b) states in pertinent part that:

[W]henver an application is made to the court to amend a petition for naturalization after final action thereon has been taken by the court, a copy of the application shall be served upon the district director having administrative jurisdiction over the territory in which the court is located, in the manner and within the time provided by the rules of court in which the application is made. No objection shall be made to the amendment of a petition for naturalization after the petitioner for naturalization has been admitted to citizenship if the motion or application is to correct a clerical error arising from oversight or omission. A representative of the Service [CIS] may appear at the hearing upon such application and be heard in favor of or in opposition thereto. When the court orders the petition amended, the clerk of court shall transmit a copy of the order to the district director for inclusion in the Service file.

Based on the reasoning set forth above, the appeal will be dismissed without prejudice to the applicant's submitting a request to a U.S. Federal Court in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.