

# Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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## Tracey Ullman Keynote Speaker at 48th Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony

ACTRESS AND COMEDIENNE Tracey Ullman was the featured speaker Sunday, July 4, at Monticello's 48th annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony.

"I think I know a bit about how you feel this morning. You have come to the end of a long process, lawyers, interviews, and tests. OK, pop quiz! How many stripes are there on the American flag?" Ullman asked the 71 individuals who became citizens at the ceremony.

The event featured inspiring and amusing remarks from Ullman and

heartfelt commentary from the new citizens.

"We were delighted to have Tracey speak at this year's ceremony," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "As a naturalized citizen, she has a firsthand understanding of the journey to become an American citizen and appreciates the importance of civic engagement in American society."

Since 1963, over 3,000 individuals have been sworn in as American citizens at the annual Independence Day at Monticello in proceedings presided over by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia. This Fourth of July marked the 234th anniversary of American independence. Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, died at Monticello on the 50th anniversary, July 4, 1826.

"Seventy-one new Americans started their lives as U.S. citizens at Monticello, continuing Jefferson's legacy of citizenship and liberty. Jefferson always hoped that Americans would celebrate the Fourth, or what he called "the great birthday of our Republic," said Bowman.

Learn more about our Fourth of July Celebration online at [www.monticello.org/july4](http://www.monticello.org/july4).



*"I must admit I felt daunted about being here today, at this auspicious place, the home of one of our founding fathers, a national treasure."*

—TRACEY ULLMAN,  
JULY 4, 2010, MONTICELLO

