

Nearly 30 to receive oath of U.S. citizenship

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Independence Day ceremony at historic Harmony Hall **SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS**

The man recently selected to head the North Carolina Eastern Region here will share his memories of becoming a United States citizen at the age of 12 when he speaks to the 28 individuals slated to become Americans at special ceremonies July 4.

Albert A. Delia, director of Federal Relations for **East Carolina University**, was born an Italian citizen in Tripoli, Libya.

His family later moved to the Washington, D.C., area and he became a U.S. citizen on Columbus Day 1972 at ceremonies in the Federal Courthouse in Baltimore, he recalls.

Delia will be joined by U.S. Rep. Walter Jones and Chief Federal Judge of the Eastern District of North Carolina Louise Flanagan at a Naturalization and Granting of Citizenship ceremony at Harmony Hall at 10 a.m. on Independence Day.

Delia will take over as president and CEO of the North Carolina Eastern Region, an economic development agency, Aug. 1. Jones will welcome participants and observers to the Harmony Hall event, being hosted by the Lenoir County Historical Association.

Men and women from 18 different countries on four continents, according to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will become U.S. citizens while in Kinston for Independence Day.

Flanagan will preside over the swearing in ceremonies, according to Adrian King, president-elect of the Lenoir County Historical Association, host for the special event.

This marks the second consecutive year that Harmony Hall and the association have hosted an Independence Day ceremony welcoming new citizens into the fold, King noted.

Members of the public

are invited to attend the

ceremony, according to King. It will begin at 10 a.m. July 4. A reception honoring the new U.S. citizens will be held after the event in the historic residence, built in 1772 on the eve of the American Revolution.

From 1777 until 1782, Harmony Hall served as North Carolina's de facto state capital on orders of Richard Caswell, the state's first elected governor.

The individuals who will receive their citizenship in the Kinston ceremony come from the following countries: Anguilla, China, Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.