

## Miami's Freedom Tower hosts swearing in ceremony on the Fourth of July

MIAMI HERALD STAFF



David Santiago / el Nuevo Herald

Miami Dade College's Freedom Tower.

Hundreds of new U.S. citizens will take the Oath of Allegiance at a special Fourth of July naturalization ceremony at the historic Freedom Tower in downtown Miami.

The event will start at 10:30 a.m. when 200 hundred applicants from 50 countries will be sworn in at Miami Dade College's iconic building. The keynote speaker will be U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami.

Across the country, more than 7,800 candidates will become citizens at more than 100 special ceremonies, part of U.S. Citizenship and immigration Services' annual celebration of Independence Day.

The Freedom Tower, a National Historic Landmark, is considered by many the Ellis Island of the South. It was the site where hundreds of thousands of Cuban exiles were processed starting in the early 1960s to 1974.