

# Cesar Parra Celebrates 5 Years as an American Citizen

*Cesar Parra received his US citizenship in 2009.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- [Cesar Parra](#) was proud to become a United States Citizen in 2009. He is also a citizen of Colombia, though he needed to leave the country due to rising political tensions in the area.

"It was very sad when I needed to leave my home country of Colombia," [Cesar Parra](#) was quoted as saying. "Columbia will always hold a special place in my heart, and I was very proud to represent them in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece."

After arriving in the United States for good, [Cesar Parra](#) knew that he wouldn't settle for anything other than full citizenship. The United States had provided to him so much that he was very proud to call himself a citizen.

"Having a US passport is pretty much the key to the world," Cesar Parra said when asked. "I don't think many native United States citizens understand how amazing it is to be a citizen. For example, it is so much easier it is to move around the world with the United States on your passport. It is made traveling internationally very easy."

Of course, receiving US citizenship is not very easy. There are many ways that people can receive US citizenship, the easiest being born within the United States or its territories. As Cesar Parra was born in Colombia, this was not an option for him. He was also married to a Colombian citizen, so he was unable to pursue citizenship through marriage.

"Marriage probably would've been the easier path," Cesar Parra admits. "However, I love my wife so much that it hardly seems a handicap!"

The path to naturalization is not an easy one. It requires taking a test in English and on American civics. The test in American civic society is so difficult that most native born Americans probably



Another proud moment in Cesar Parra's life was being on team silver at the Pan-American Games. This occurred in 1999, and he placed fifth in the individual division. In 2003, he would advance to placing fourth in the same competition.

would not be able to pass it without a good study session.

"It's good to know so much about the country that you are becoming a part of," Cesar Parra is quoted as saying. "While taking the naturalization test was certainly a challenge, it definitely heightened my understanding of what it is to be an American and why so many generations of people are proud of the red white and blue."

Once Cesar Parra passed the naturalization test, he then needed to take the actual oath to the Constitution. Cesar Parra had to wait a little while to take his oath, but at some centers it is possible to take the oath on the same day.

"Once I had learned that I had passed the naturalization test, I was very excited to get started with the oath," Cesar Parra admitted. "It was very difficult to wait, and I admit being a little jealous of the group that was able to get it done right away, and thus get onto the next and final bit of paperwork to make the entire arrangement official."

That was another thing that Cesar Parra was glad to put behind him. Becoming a United States citizen requires a lot of paperwork and many different interviews and meetings. While everybody is glad to receive their citizenship at the end, Cesar Parra guesses that the majority of applicants are also glad to see the end of paperwork.

"Don't get me wrong, I am more than pleased that I went through with my citizenship test," Cesar Parra says. "However, as elated as I was at finally becoming a citizen, I was also very happy to never have to look at another piece of naturalization paperwork again!"

About: Cesar Parra is a citizen of the United States.

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