

MIAMI NEWS

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BAY OF PIGS VET BECOMES YANQUI — 'IT'S GREAT'

A federal court judge in a precedent-setting case has granted citizenship here to a Havana-born survivor of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Carlos Viera, 34, was the first veteran of that ill-fated expedition to gain U. S. citizenship.

Naturalization came in Miami's latest new-citizen ceremonies before Judge Charles B. Fulton, upon the recommendation of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Citizenship was granted despite the fact that Viera was away from the United States for more than a year during a period when continuous residence is required "except in certain cases."

Viera's is that "certain cases." His was an enforced absence from the United States. He spent 23 months in a Castro prison after the invasion.

A former Havana policeman and father of one, Viera owns his home at 120 W. 43 St. in Hialeah and thinks "American citizenship is the greatest thing on earth."

In recommending him for U.S. citizenship, Joseph Minton, deputy district director for immigration and naturalization here, said for purposes of naturalization Viera "did not break his continuity of residence."

Continuous presence in this country, except for short periods not exceeding a year, is part of the requirement during the regular five-year waiting period.



Miami News Photo by Toby Massey

Carlos Viera . . . 23 Months In Castro Jail