

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 70

### Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Frazier, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

May 13, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to Portuguese National Heritage Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 70, as amended, Salas. Portuguese National Heritage Month.

This bill would recognize the month of June 2015 as Portuguese National Heritage Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In September of 1542, Portuguese explorer Juan
- 2 Rodrigues Cabrillo (João Rodrigues Cabrillo) sailed a ship into
- 3 San Diego Bay and became the first European to explore the land
- 4 now known as California. Cabrillo explored the California coast,
- 5 and is credited with numerous coastal discoveries; and

1 WHEREAS, The first Portuguese settlers came to California  
2 from the Azores Islands in the early 19th century. The largest wave  
3 of Azorean immigrants moved to California just before and after  
4 the turn of the 20th century. Each wave contributed substantially  
5 to setting up agricultural operations, especially dairy, vegetable,  
6 and fruit farms; and

7 WHEREAS, Throughout most of the 20th century, as many as  
8 one-half of all Portuguese Californians owned or operated a dairy  
9 farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-related industry.  
10 Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and thriftiness, along  
11 with additional labor from family members, a Portuguese settler  
12 could earn enough to reinvest in his business, and buy more land  
13 and cattle; and

14 WHEREAS, Historically, California has been a popular  
15 destination for immigrants from the Azores Islands, creating strong  
16 cultural ties between the two regions; currently there are over  
17 330,000 persons of Portuguese heritage living in California,  
18 approximately 90 percent of whom have either come directly from  
19 the Azores Islands or are of Azorean parentage; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1994, the University of California, Berkeley,  
21 established The Portuguese Studies Program. Included among the  
22 many goals of the program is the goal “to spotlight the crucial and  
23 complex but often overlooked experience and contributions of the  
24 Portuguese American community”; and

25 WHEREAS, Among the great Portuguese Americans who have  
26 contributed significantly to this country are: composer John Philip  
27 Sousa, best known for composing “Stars and Stripes Forever”;  
28 poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue  
29 of Liberty, “The New Colossus”; architect William L. Pereira, best  
30 known for designing the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco;  
31 and singer and actress Carmen Miranda. Many Portuguese  
32 Americans have also served with distinction in local, state, and  
33 federal office, and have served proudly in this country’s military;  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans have made valuable and  
36 substantial contributions to every facet of California life including  
37 the entertainment industry, the most notable of whom are Mary  
38 Astor, Tom Hanks, Joe Perry, and James Franco; and

39 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans continue to thrive in  
40 agricultural communities of the San Joaquin Valley, including

1 Hanford and Lemoore in Kings County and Shafter, Wasco, and  
2 Bakersfield in Kern County; they have contributed greatly to  
3 making market milk the leading agricultural product by value in  
4 both Kings and Kern Counties; and

5 WHEREAS, The Portuguese Heritage Society of California  
6 designated the second Saturday of June as a day to celebrate  
7 Portuguese culture through music, dance, art, cooking, parades,  
8 and other festivities; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the month  
11 of June 2015 as Portuguese National Heritage Month; and be it  
12 further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.