

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 184

Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Arambula~~ Salas

(Principal coauthor: Senator Vidak)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Gray, and Olsen)

***(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Cannella, Fuller, Galgiani, and
Mendoza)***

May 10, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 184—Relative to Portuguese National Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 184, as amended, ~~Arambula~~ Salas. Portuguese National Heritage Month.

This bill would recognize the month of June 2016 as Portuguese National Heritage Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

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

6 WHEREAS, The first Portuguese settlers came to California
7 from the Azores Islands in the early 19th century. The largest wave
8 of Azorean immigrants moved to California just before and after
9 the turn of the 20th century. Each wave contributed substantially

1 to setting up agricultural operations, especially dairy, vegetable,
2 and fruit farms; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Historically, California has been a popular
11 destination for immigrants from the Azores Islands, creating strong
12 cultural ties between the two regions; currently there are ~~over~~ *more*
13 *than* 381,000 persons of Portuguese heritage living in California,
14 approximately 90 percent of whom have either come directly from
15 the Azores Islands or are of Azorean parentage; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1979, the Center for Portuguese Studies at the
17 University of California, Santa Barbara, was founded for the
18 purpose of promoting and developing Portuguese studies in
19 California and in the United States; and

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

25 WHEREAS, In 1999, the Center for Portuguese Studies at the
26 California State University, Stanislaus, was established to promote
27 the study of the Portuguese-speaking world’s language, history,
28 culture, and influence. ~~The Center~~ *center* works to enrich the
29 connections ~~between~~ *among* the local Portuguese community and
30 its cultural and linguistic heritage and to forge new connections
31 between countries of the Portuguese-speaking world and
32 California’s central valley; and

33 WHEREAS, Among the great Portuguese Americans who have
34 contributed significantly to this country are: composer John Philip
35 Sousa, best known for composing “Stars and Stripes Forever”;
36 poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue
37 of Liberty, “The New Colossus”; architect William L. Pereira, best
38 known for designing the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco;
39 and singer and actress Carmen Miranda. Many Portuguese
40 Americans have also served with distinction in local, state, and

1 federal office, and have served proudly in this country’s military;
2 and

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

7 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans continue to thrive in
8 agricultural communities of the San Joaquin Valley, including
9 Hanford and Lemoore in Kings County and Shafter, Wasco, and
10 Bakersfield in Kern County; they have contributed greatly to
11 making market milk the leading agricultural product by value in
12 both ~~Kings and Kern Counties~~; *the Counties of Kings and Kern*;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Portuguese Heritage Society of California
15 built the Portuguese Historical Museum to serve as a center for
16 the display of Portuguese heritage and culture. In addition to its
17 permanent exhibits, it will house and host exhibits and cultural
18 programs from various organizations and the many Portuguese
19 communities in the United States and around the world; and

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

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the month
26 of June 2016 as Portuguese National Heritage Month; and be it
27 further

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

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