
Introduced by Senator Mendoza

May 13, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to Portugal Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 62, as introduced, Mendoza. Portugal Day.

This act would declare June 10, 2015, as Portugal Day to celebrate Portuguese national heritage.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In September of 1542, Portuguese explorer João
2 Rodrigues Cabrillo sailed a ship into San Diego Bay, becoming
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, In 1870, Portuguese immigrants began arriving in
7 the United States in relatively large numbers. The majority of these
8 Portuguese immigrants were men from the Azores, who were
9 primarily recruited to work on American whaling ships and to
10 farm; and
11 WHEREAS, Between 1900 and 1940, as much as one-half of
12 the Portuguese community in California owned or operated a dairy
13 farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-supporting
14 industry. Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and
15 thriftiness, along with additional labor from family members, a
16 Portuguese settler could earn enough to reinvest in his business,
17 buying land and more dairy cows; and
18 WHEREAS, Among the great Portuguese Americans who have
19 contributed significantly to this country are: composer John Philip

1 Sousa, best known for composing “Stars and Stripes Forever”;
2 poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue
3 of Liberty, “The New Colossus”; architect William L. Pereira, best
4 known for designing the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco;
5 and singer and actress Carmen Miranda. Many Portuguese
6 Americans have also served with distinction in local, state, and
7 federal office; and

8 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans have truly made valuable
9 and substantial contributions to every facet of California life.
10 Portuguese Americans continue to thrive in agricultural
11 communities of the Santa Clara and San Joaquin Valleys. Today,
12 over 350,000 Portuguese Americans reside in California.; and

13 WHEREAS, Portuguese national literary icon Luís de Camões
14 wrote Portugal’s national epic poem, *Os Lusíadas*, celebrating the
15 15th-century Portuguese explorations which brought fame and
16 fortune to the country. The poem, considered one of the finest and
17 most important works in Portuguese literature, became a symbol
18 for the great feats of the Portuguese Empire; and

19 WHEREAS, *Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades*
20 *Portuguesas*, translated as “Day of Portugal, Camões, and the
21 Portuguese Communities,” commemorates the death of Luís de
22 Camões on June 10, 1580; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares June 10,
25 2015, as Portugal Day, a day to celebrate Portuguese national
26 heritage; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.