

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 62

Introduced by Senator Mendoza

May 13, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 62, as amended, 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~~ *Cabrilho* sailed a ship into San Diego Bay,
3 *thereby* becoming the first European to explore the land now known
4 as California. ~~Cabrillo explored~~ *Cabrilho's efforts included*
5 *exploring* the California coast, and *he* is credited with numerous
6 coastal discoveries; and

7 WHEREAS, ~~In 1870~~, Portuguese immigrants began arriving in
8 the United States in relatively large numbers. ~~The majority of these~~
9 ~~Portuguese immigrants were~~ *numbers beginning in 1870, with*
10 *most of these immigrants being men from the Azores, who were*
11 *primarily who, for the most part, had been recruited to farm and*
12 *to work on American whaling ships and to farm; ships; and*

13 WHEREAS, Between 1900 and 1940, as much as one-half of
14 the Portuguese community in California owned or operated a dairy
15 farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-supporting
16 industry. Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and
17 thriftiness, ~~along with additional labor from family members, a~~

~~Portuguese settler could earn enough to reinvest in his business, buying land and more dairy cows; these pioneering Portuguese Americans were renowned for their work ethic and ingenuity, often reinvesting in their own businesses by buying more land and dairy cows; and~~

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

WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans have ~~truly~~ made valuable and substantial contributions to every facet of California ~~life. Portuguese Americans continue to thrive in life, such as within the thriving~~ agricultural communities of the Santa Clara and San Joaquin Valleys ~~and through service in local, state, and federal office. Today, over 350,000 Portuguese Americans reside in California; California; and~~

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

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

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

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

O