
Introduced by Senator Mendoza

April 7, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 130—Relative to Portugal Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 130, as introduced, Mendoza. Portugal Day

This act would declare June 10, 2016, as Portugal Day to celebrate Portuguese national heritage.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In September 1542, Portuguese explorer João
2 Rodrigues Cabrilho sailed a ship into San Diego Bay, thereby
3 becoming the first European to explore the land now known as
4 California. Cabrilho's efforts included exploring the California
5 coast, and he is credited with numerous coastal discoveries; and
6 WHEREAS, Portuguese immigrants began arriving in the United
7 States in relatively large numbers beginning in 1870, with most
8 of these immigrants being men from the Azores, who, for the most
9 part, had been recruited to farm and to work on American whaling
10 ships; 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, these pioneering Portuguese Americans were renowned
16 for their work ethic and ingenuity, often reinvesting in their own
17 businesses by buying more land and 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; and

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

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

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

22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares June 10,
24 2016, as Portugal Day, a day to celebrate Portuguese national
25 heritage; and be it further

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