

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 130**

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**Introduced by Senator Mendoza**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Eggman, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, and Wood)*

April 7, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 130, as amended, 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

1 of these immigrants being men from the Azores, who, for the most  
2 part, had been recruited to farm and to work on American whaling  
3 ships; and

4 WHEREAS, Between 1900 and 1940, as much as one-half of  
5 the Portuguese community in California owned or operated a dairy  
6 farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-supporting  
7 industry. Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and  
8 thriftiness, these pioneering Portuguese Americans were renowned  
9 for their work ethic and ingenuity, often reinvesting in their own  
10 businesses by buying more land and dairy cows; and

11 WHEREAS, Among the great Portuguese Americans who have  
12 contributed significantly to this country are: composer John Philip  
13 Sousa, best known for composing “Stars and Stripes Forever”;  
14 poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue  
15 of Liberty, “The New Colossus”; architect William L. Pereira, best  
16 known for designing the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco;  
17 and singer and actress Carmen Miranda; and

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

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

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

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares June 10,  
36 2016, as Portugal Day, a day to celebrate Portuguese national  
37 heritage; and be it further

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

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