

2015 -- H 6281

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JUNE 10, 2015, AS THE "DAY OF PORTUGAL" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Melo, Marshall, Mattiello, DeSimone, and Newberry

Date Introduced: June 04, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, June 10th marks the anniversary of the death of Luis Camoes, a gifted and
2 renowned Portuguese poet. The day is now celebrated around the world as the "National Day of
3 Portugal"; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's large and significant Portuguese population has made
5 substantial contributions to all aspects of the state's history and rich cultural diversity; and

6 WHEREAS, Between 1830 and 1860, whaling ships from Bristol, Newport, New
7 Bedford, and Fall River traveled to the Azores where they often took on Portuguese sailors. Many
8 of these sailors traveled back to New England, settling in Providence, Pawtucket, and East
9 Providence. They frequently took on work in the textile mills, which were abundant in the area at
10 the time, while others became farmers in Little Compton and Portsmouth; and

11 WHEREAS, The main goal for the Portuguese people coming to Rhode Island and the
12 United States was economic betterment, but, like the Irish and Italians, the Portuguese people all
13 too often suffered discrimination and exploitation in employment. Through perseverance and an
14 indomitable work ethic, they carved a future for themselves and their families; and

15 WHEREAS, The number of Portuguese people who currently reside in Rhode Island is
16 more than 90,000, with the majority making their homes in the Providence and Bristol Counties;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Portuguese American population in Rhode Island is an active and vital
19 part of our state. They have enriched and delighted our palates with fine restaurants that serve

1 traditional Portuguese dishes, and they actively contribute to and participate in all areas of the
2 community through various businesses, artistic contributions, volunteerism, politics, and
3 patriotism; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby thanks Rhode Island's Portuguese Community for the many
6 contributions it has generously made to the enrichment of this state; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby recognizes June 10, 2015, as the
8 "Day of Portugal" in the State of Rhode Island. We join in the celebration of the 38th Anniversary
9 of this auspicious occasion; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island "Day of Portugal" Committee.

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