

Date of Hearing: May 18, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 185 (Macedo) – As Introduced April 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Portuguese Heritage Month: Day of Portugal: Day of the Azores.

SUMMARY: Declares the month of June 2026 to be Portuguese Heritage Month; and, recognizes June 10, 2026, as the Day of Portugal and May 25, 2026, as the Day of the Azores. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The first Portuguese settlers came to California from the Azores Islands in the early 19th century. Waves of Azorean immigrants moved to California just before and during the 20th century, with the second and largest wave between 1958 and 1976, each contributing substantially to setting up agricultural operations, especially dairy, livestock, vegetable, fruit farms, and the tuna industry in southern California.
- 2) Throughout most of the 20th century, as many as one-half of all Portuguese Californians owned or operated a dairy farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-related industry. Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and thriftiness, along with additional labor from family members, Portuguese settlers could earn enough to reinvest in their businesses, and buy more land and cattle. Today, Portuguese Americans in California continue to play an important role in agriculture and dairying, as proprietors and innovators.
- 3) California has long been a destination for immigrants from the Azores Islands, creating enduring cultural ties. Today, more than 350,000 persons of Portuguese heritage live in California, approximately 90 percent of whom are of Azorean descent.
- 4) Portuguese fraternal organizations have contributed to the financial and cultural stability of the community, including the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America and the Luso-American Fraternal Federation, both headquartered in California. Institutions such as the Portuguese Beyond Borders Institute at California State University, Fresno, further strengthen academic, cultural, and economic ties.
- 5) The California Portuguese American Coalition, established in 2016, fosters civic engagement and public service among Portuguese Americans. A strategic plan developed in 2018 promotes Portuguese language and cultural education in California schools, strengthening connections and economic opportunities with Portuguese-speaking nations.
- 6) California maintains a sister-state relationship with the Autonomous Region of the Azores, fostering collaboration in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, tourism, technology, and cultural exchange.
- 7) Portuguese Americans have enriched California's cultural landscape, including contributions to the arts and entertainment industry, the most notable of whom are Mary Astor, Katy Perry, Tom Hanks, Joe Perry, Nuno Bettencourt, Steve Perry, and Sara Bareilles.

- 8) Portuguese language media has been part of California's landscape since the 1880s, today utilizing all major areas of technology and incorporating new technologies, such as innovative apps like Diáspora Média Group, Inc. and platforms such as Novidades.
- 9) Institutions such as the Portuguese Historical Museum and Bruma Publications, and other cultural and historical institutions, preserve and document the history and contributions of Portuguese Americans.
- 10) Cultural traditions such as the Portuguese Holy Ghost Festival and other community celebrations remain vital expressions of heritage and identity in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800