

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the observance of Portugal Day in the State of New York, on June 10, 2012

WHEREAS, Every 10th day of June, the Portuguese celebrate their national holiday known as Dia de Portugal in the native tongue; the rest of the world recognizes this momentous occasion as Portugal Day; and

WHEREAS, This date commemorates the death of Luis de Camoes, a significant figure in the history of Portugal; he is best known for his work on Lusiadas, the national epic poem of Portugal which celebrates the nation's successes and rich history; and

WHEREAS, Although this holiday is only celebrated officially in the homeland, Portuguese citizens from other countries such as India, Brazil, Canada, and other European nations also celebrate Portugal Day; and

WHEREAS, The Lusiadas is an epic poem that depicts the achievements of the Portuguese in world explorations during the 16th Century; Portugal played an important role in the discovery of the new world during this century and their accomplishments have definitely put this European country on the map; and

WHEREAS, In fact, legendary voyager Ferdinand Magellan hails from this proud nation; Camoes' poem captures the essence of this golden era for the Portuguese as it remains as one of the finest and most relevant works in Portuguese literature; and

WHEREAS, A monument built in memory of Luis de Camoes stands proudly in one of the busy streets of beautiful Lisbon, the country's capital city; it immortalizes the character of Portugal's national poet and is able to aptly represent the person that he was; and

WHEREAS, Luis de Camoes was known to be an adventurer; among his many escapades include surviving a shipwreck in the region of Cochinchina (now known as Vietnam), and losing an eye while in battle in Ceuta; legend has it that in order to save the Lusiadas, Camoes had to keep it afloat with one of his hands, while he used his other arm to swim through the unforgiving waters of the region's seas; and

WHEREAS, His patriotism and bravery are just a few of the qualities Luis de Camoes had that made the nation choose to celebrate Portugal Day in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Portugal was conquered by Spain in the year 1580; it is quite ironic that the nation lost its independence in the year that saw the death of Camoes; three generations and 60 years of Spanish rule after, Portugal regained its independence on December 1, 1640; and

WHEREAS, Since then, the country's national day was established and subsequently celebrated on June 10th; it is because of uncertainties on Camoes' birth date that Portugal Day was established to commemorate the hero's death; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the observance of Portugal Day in the State of New York, on June 10, 2012; and be it farther

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Portuguese organizations throughout the State of New York.