

## 2015-J1854

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Portuguese American Center of Suffolk upon the occasion of celebrating the 4th Annual Portugal Day Celebration and paying tribute to this year's honorees

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Portuguese American Center of Suffolk upon the occasion of celebrating the 4th Annual Portugal Day Celebration on Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Farmingville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 Portugal Day honorees include: Fernando Frade, Fatima Ward, Marco Dafonte, Monica Oliveira, Joaquim Cunha, Manuela Bairos, and Oliveira Contracting; and

WHEREAS, Every year on June 10th, Portuguese people celebrate the national holiday known as Dia de Portugal in their 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, The Lusiadas 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 certainly put this European country on the map; and

WHEREAS, A monument built in memory of Luis de Camoes stands proudly in one of the busiest 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 he was; 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 commend the Portuguese American Center of Suffolk upon the occasion of celebrating the 4th Annual Portugal Day Celebration, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Portuguese American Center of Suffolk, and the 2015 honorees.