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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing support for the designation of June as Portuguese National
Heritage Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VALADAO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of June as
Portuguese National Heritage Month.

Whereas Portugal was the first neutral nation to establish
diplomatic ties with the United States;

Whereas Portuguese Americans harbor a deep commitment to
family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a
perseverance to succeed and contribute to society;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have contributed to the ad-
vancement of early American society from manning whal-
ing ships in New England to the introduction of grape
cultivation in Georgia;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have been leaders in elected governmental positions;

Whereas Portuguese-American political influence began early in Hawaii, and in 1894, 3 of the 18 elected delegates to the Constitutional Convention were Portuguese;

Whereas, in 1979, Peter “Tony” Coelho of California was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Portuguese American to serve in Congress;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have served in the highest positions of the National Government, the most notable of whom is nuclear physicist and former Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz;

Whereas Portuguese Americans are leaders in the agricultural industry in California and throughout the Nation, most notably in the dairy industry;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have contributed significantly to the prosperity of New Bedford and Fall River, Massachusetts, through leadership in maritime industries, small businesses, public service, and community organizations;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have served in the highest levels of the educational community, the most notable being Francis Mile Rogers, who was a professor of Portuguese at Harvard University, where he chaired the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and served as the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have served with distinction and proudly in the United States military;

Whereas Portuguese Americans have made lasting contributions to American culture in various ways, such as introducing the ukulele to American music and John Philip

Sousa, the “March King”, composing the “Stars and Stripes Forever” march for the United States Navy;

Whereas, through signing of a formal memorandum of understanding, the Embassy of Portugal in Washington, D.C., is officially part of the America250 celebration marking 250 years of United States independence;

Whereas this year marks the 70th anniversary of the first Portuguese-language television program in North America, a program that began in 1956 with Casey Santos in Tulare County, California, marking a major accomplishment of Portuguese Americans;

Whereas Portuguese Americans, and particularly emigrants from the Azores Archipelago, have built bridges of cooperation and innovation that have strengthened transatlantic relations through local and international Portuguese-American associations such as the Luso-American Development Foundation and the Portuguese American Leadership Council; and

Whereas Dia de Portugal is annually celebrated on June 10:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses support for the designation of
3 Portuguese National Heritage Month;

4 (2) esteems the integral role of the Portuguese-
5 American community and the manifold heritage of
6 Portugal in the economy, culture, and identity of the
7 United States; and

8 (3) urges the people of the United States to ob-
9 serve a Portuguese National Heritage Month with

1 appropriate programs and activities that celebrate
2 the contributions of the Portuguese community to
3 the United States.