

Dear South Coast Community,

Officially known as “Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades Portuguesas” (Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities), The Day of Portugal is a celebration of Portuguese history, language and culture. Observed on the anniversary of Luís Vaz de Camões death on **June 10**, 1580, it is also known as Portugal's National Day.

Camões wrote the *Lusiads*, Portugal's national epic poem celebrating the country's history and achievements. The poem is considered to be one of the most important pieces of Portuguese literature and has become a symbol of glory for the Portuguese nation. While this holiday is only officially celebrated in Portugal, many Portuguese descendants across the world recognize this special day.

In the year that Camões died, Portugal lost its independence to Spain. It was over 60 years before the country regained its independence in 1640. Portugal’s Restoration of Independence day is celebrated each year on December 1.

At Southcoast Health, our Portuguese workforce and patient population continue to make many important contributions to our success and service as a community healthcare system. We are honored to celebrate their heritage on this day.

On behalf of Southcoast leadership, thank you to all of our Portuguese colleagues and community members who contribute so much to our organization, now and in many years past.

To honor Day of Portugal we are highlighting Southcoast Health colleagues on social media. Watch for these touching stories of their families’ journeys.

With Gratitude,

Lauren De Simon Johnson
Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Executive Sponsor, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council