

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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O'CONNELL AND CITY OF TAUNTON CELEBRATE PORTUGUESE HERITAGE MONTH

Taunton, MA... Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell announced she is pleased to invite the Greater Taunton Area Day of Portugal Committee to celebrate the culture and heritage of the Portuguese community with the raising of the Portuguese flag at City Hall on June 10, 2023 at 12:00 pm.

“For more than 150 years, countless Portuguese citizens have immigrated to Taunton and made it their home. We treasure the contributions of the Portuguese community that have made our City so culturally rich and diverse,” said Mayor O'Connell. “From the many prominent Portuguese family names throughout the City, to several beloved Portuguese-owned businesses, to the classic annually-awaited Portuguese festivals, Portuguese heritage is significant to the fabric of our community.”

The month of June is nationally recognized as Portuguese-American Heritage Month. The Day of Portugal Committee has been working for months to organize a celebration spanning the month of June which will include numerous cultural, social, and educational events to promote Portuguese and Portuguese-American heritage and culture in Taunton. The Committee consists of members from various Portuguese clubs, organizations, societies, Portuguese-American elected officials and community representatives throughout the Greater Taunton Area led by President Paul Ferreira and Vice-President Teresa Mello.

June 10th, the Day of Portugal, is officially known as “Dia de Portugal, de Camões, e das Comunidades Portuguesas” (Day of Portugal, Camões, and the Portuguese Communities). It commemorates the death on June 10, 1580 of Luis de Camões, a Portuguese poet and national literacy icon. On June 10, 2023, the Day of Portugal Committee will host a ceremony to raise the Portuguese flag in front of City Hall at 12:00 pm. Refreshments will be served inside City Hall following the ceremony.

In support of the effort to promote Portuguese Heritage Month, other local organizations are also sponsoring activities such as “Taste of Portugal” being held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at the New Ward 5 Club from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm, organized by the Heart of Taunton, Taste of Portugal sub-committee. This event will offer an evening of authentic Portuguese food, pastries, wine, music and dancing.

Events sponsored by the Day of Portugal Committee include:

- June 2, 6:00 pm: Prince Henry Society Scholarship Award Banquet (Taunton Sports Club)
- June 2-5, 6:00 pm: Holy Ghost Feast (Taunton Eagles Club)
- June 8, 6:00 pm: E. Taunton Holy Ghost Reception, Angra de Heroismo Students (E. Taunton Holy Ghost Hall)

- June 10, 12:00 pm: Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception (City Hall)
- June 11, 8:00 am: Day of Portugal Extended Activities (Taunton Sports Club)
- June 13, 10:00 am: Day of Portugal Celebration, Portuguese American Legislative Caucus (State House, Boston, MA)
- June 15, 6:00 pm: Wine Tasting (The Pearl Restaurant)
- June 17, 1:00 pm: Documentary - Portuguese in New England (Old Colony History Museum)
- June 22-25, 6:00 pm: Holy Ghost Feast (Taunton Sports Club)
- June 28, 6:00 pm: Portuguese Craft Event (Trescott Street Gallery)

All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend these community events. ###