



Dear Southcoast Colleagues,

At Southcoast Health, we are proud to honor our Portuguese American colleagues and their families by recognizing Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities.

The Day of Portugal is a celebration of Portuguese history, language and culture, commemorated in every corner of the Portuguese-speaking world. It is observed annually on June 10, the anniversary of the death of Luís Vaz de Camões, considered to be Portugal's greatest poet and the most popular poet to have written in the Portuguese language, in 1580. This holiday is also known as Portugal's National Day.

Today, the South Coast region is home to one of the largest Portuguese populations in the United States. The history of the cities of New Bedford and Fall River can only be told through the stories of many Portuguese people who helped these cities grow with their hard work and determination since the 1600s.

Throughout this week, our Day of Portugal celebration will include a special menu featuring Portuguese cuisine, and Portuguese colleagues will share their stories with us. They will be featured on social media and on Southcoast Central's [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion page](#) throughout the week.

We hope you enjoy our extended recognition of this special day to celebrate our Portuguese American colleagues and their ongoing contributions to our organization.

Thank you to our Portuguese American colleagues for all you have done and continue to do for Southcoast Health and our community!

With gratitude,

Lauren De Simon Johnson  
Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer  
Southcoast Health