

*Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009*

**Statement on the Day of Portugal, Camoes, and the Portuguese Communities**  
*June 10, 2009*

The United States and Portugal have a strong and long-standing friendship. Today, on the "Day of Portugal, Camoes, and the Portuguese Communities," people of Portuguese descent around the world mark the date of the passing of Portugal's greatest poet, Luis Vaz de Camoes. It is fitting that Camoes, who lived from 1524 to 1580, is best known for his epic poem, *Os Lusíadas*, a tribute to the golden age of Portuguese exploration and discovery.

This Nation has greatly benefited from the contributions of countless Portuguese Americans. On this Day of Portugal, I proudly send my best wishes to all who celebrate Portuguese culture and heritage on this occasion.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Portugal, Camoes, and the Portuguese Communities, Day of.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Subjects:* Portugal : Day of Portugal, Camoes, and the Portuguese Communities; Portugal : Relations with U.S.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD200900451.