

Rated #1 Best Web-Based Publication  
in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe

[www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil)

# Crossroads TRA

Vol. 17, No. 23 June 8, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

**"6-5...  
IN THE FIGHT!"  
FY 2012**

 812  
SORTIES

13,021  
LODGED 

 4.04 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED



**Don't drink  
and drive  
call  
295 57 LADD**

**Medical Appointment:**  
Base: 535-3261  
Off base: 295-573-261  
**Emergency:**  
Base: 911  
Off base: 295-571-911

**Weekend Weather  
Forecast  
(21st Operational Weather  
Squadron)**

**Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)**  
Mostly Cloudy / Rain  
Wind W 10 mph  
NW 15 mph  
HIGH 19C / 66F  
LOW 17C / 63F

**Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)**  
Mostly Cloudy  
Wind SW 15 mph  
NW 15 mph  
HIGH 19C / 66F  
LOW 18C / 64F



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presents the 65th Mission Support Group guidon to Col. John Oliver, as Oliver takes command of the 65th MSG June 6. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

**By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe**  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Col. John Oliver assumed command of the 65th Mission Support Group from Col. Archibald Bruns during a change-of-command ceremony at Lajes Field, Azores, June 6.

This is Oliver's second assignment to Lajes Field. He was stationed here from June 2005 to June 2007 as the 65th Services Squadron commander.

"When you return home, things are never quite the same, but relationships are the reason why we return home. The goodness of Lajes has brought us back," Oliver said.

This time Oliver comes to Lajes Field from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he served at Air Force Materiel Command as Chief of the F-16 Foreign Military Sales Program, Fighters and Bombers Directorate, Aeronautical Systems Center.

Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

Speaking to the 65th MSG, Rivera said, "The mission will continue and Airmen will continue to be served."

Oliver commissioned in 1987 from the University of Central Florida through the Air Force ROTC Program. He's held a myriad of positions within the Acquisition career

field. He entered active duty in 1988 as the Program and Flight Test Manager, Systems Directorate, Aeronautically Systems Division at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

While commanding the 65th MSG, Bruns was responsible for enabling expeditionary forces through continuous operation of an essential en route support base for worldwide deployments of U.S.

and allied forces. He directed six organizations providing security, civil engineering, personnel management, morale and welfare, communications, logistics readiness and contracting for all personnel and facilities. He also oversaw DoD Dependent Schools, AAFES and DeCA operations.

Bruns was commissioned from the Southeast Missouri State University through the Air Force ROTC Program and entered active duty in 1988 as the Chief of Personnel Utilization at Dover AFB, Del.

"I have been tremendously blessed with the opportunity to command the 65th Mission Support Group," Bruns said. "The men and women of the 65th MSG have been an inspiration to me as a commander and as an officer, and I know that they will continue to serve Colonel Oliver in the same fashion."

Bruns departs the 65th ABW en route to become the A1 Director for Air Force Global Strike Command.





# What's not on your to-do list?

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Whether it's on a yellow sticky note or on your cell phone, a to-do list is an invaluable tool. I'm lost without my daily list of meetings to attend, tasks to accomplish and phone calls to be made. As a young leader who's new to the job, a to-do list keeps me organized. In fact, my daily to-do list is probably just as important as the wallet in my back pocket; I wouldn't leave home without it.

But the things that I've left off my daily to-do lists are arguably more important than those that make the cut. Those tasks filed under 'maybe later' or 'that can wait' often come back to haunt me or the chance to accomplish the task passes by.

Here are some things that I remind myself to include on my to-do list now and again:

### Get on your feet!

Getting out of the office frequently really helps me as a young leader. I once worked for a commander who advocated 'analog leadership' in a digital age. Analog leaders are 'plugged into' what their people are working on and the issues they're facing. Though email might seem like the fastest way to communicate, it is only so effective, I've learned. And as Andy Rooney once wrote, "an email has all the charm of a freight train." So when I've got something that needs delegating, I like to get on my feet and have a conversation with the right person for the

job. I've learned that face-to-face interaction promotes better understanding, allows for brainstorming and oftentimes, those elements lead to enhanced results.

### What's on the horizon?

Next on my ideal to-do list is making time for serious planning. This seems a little ironic, huh? 'Add planning to my to-do list?' you're asking. What I mean is that it's incredibly important to take a look at what's coming down the pike in 90 or 120 days. In other words, this is my attempt to stay ahead of the power curve. It seems that if I make a conscious effort to identify key events and develop a vector ahead of time, my team handles the rest. And once again, the results speak for themselves.

### Do my 'real' job.

As a young officer, learning my craft and becoming an expert in public affairs is paramount. But a mentor reminded me recently that my 'real' job is not public affairs, but rather to be an Airman and a leader. For me, doing that 'real' job each day is something I take to heart. My 'real' job demands that I act with integrity, demand excellence from myself, and that I put the needs of my people and the Air Force before my own. Writing my 'real' job on my list helps me keep things in perspective.

So, when you're considering what to add to your next to-do list, think about including a couple of tasks like these that help me stay focused on what I really need to get done.

**Commander's Action Line**  
**535-4240**  
**65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil**

*The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.*

*Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.*



Col. Jose Rivera  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

**Col. Jose Rivera**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

# Higher education a 'must' for Lajes Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe  
and Staff Sgt. Erica Horner  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

On June 13, 76 Team Lajes members will graduate with their Community College of the Air Force degrees. Seven will receive other associate's degrees, six have completed their bachelor's degrees, and six more have earned their master's degrees.

One graduate, Maj. Randall Schmedthorst, 65th Air Base Wing Safety, earned a master's degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma.

"It's awesome," he said. "It's something that's been hanging over me pretty much the whole time I've been in the military. Now I've finally got it done, which gives me a massive sense of accomplishment."

Schmedthorst said a human relations degree wasn't his first choice when he sought out a master's degree several years ago. After commissioning into the Air Force with a bachelor's degree and completing pilot training, he began working on a History of Airpower master's degree with the American Military University.

"It was something I was interested in," he said. "It had history, and it had flying — a great combination, but the books were 500 to 600 pages long. After about the third or fourth class, it kind of fizzled off and I never got around to finishing it."

Even though he tends to procrastinate, Schmedthorst said he believes prioritizing is

very important in order to accomplish goals. At the time, however, his priorities were flying F-16 aircraft as well as being a husband and a father.

"I let those priorities take over getting the degree done," he said.

Upon arriving to Lajes, completing his degree was placed back on top of his list as he considered the greater chances of promotion with a master's degree.

"I think the kids are just about as excited as I am (about completing the degree) because I actually have time for them now," he said. "Before, I'd come home, I'd have to study, I'd need to do this or do that. Now, I come home and say, 'Hey, what do you want to do?'"

Schmedthorst encourages everyone to make that conscious decision to complete their degrees now while Uncle Sam is paying the cost.

"You're never going to be less busy than you are now," he said. "You're always going to be busier at each assignment you go through, and as you get higher in rank, you'll get more responsibility. It's just a matter of sitting down and saying, 'I'm going to do this.'"

"The more education you get, the more marketable you are," he said. "You should always be growing. Challenge yourself to grow; don't allow yourself to become stagnant."

Another graduate, Romina Newman, a military spouse and academic advisor for a university here at Lajes, also encourages graduates to continue their educational journey.

**To read more on "Education" see page 4**



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

Submissions can be e-mailed to 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday prior to the required publication date. Call 535-6161 for more details.

This Air Force funded newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

### Editorial Staff

- Col. Jose Rivera**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing
- 1st Lt. Mark Graff**  
Editor in Chief
- Mr. Eduardo Lima**  
Community Relations Advisor
- Staff Sgt. Angelique Smythe**  
Editor
- Mr. Manuel Martins**  
Layout Designer



# Team Lajes responds to truck fire; saves lives

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When Helder Silva first smelled the smoke, he didn't think that his fuel truck was on fire.

"I smelled the smoke and thought someone was burning something," he said through an interpreter.

Silva, a fuels specialist and a 31-year veteran of Lajes Field, was driving a C-300 refueling vehicle May 25, when suddenly the truck began smoking and, shortly thereafter, was engulfed in flames.

"I saw smoke coming from the dashboard, got out, chalked the truck tires, grabbed my gear and alerted approaching vehicles," said Silva.

After noticing smoke, Silva radioed for a mechanic's assistance. Seconds later, the situation was nearly out of control and because the blaze was too large to battle with the truck's fire extinguisher, calling for the fire department was the only option left.

Team Lajes first responders – both American and Portuguese – were on scene so quickly that the tires on the refueling vehicle hadn't even melted by the time the blaze was extinguished.

The truck was damaged beyond repair, but that was the extent of the damage.

Silva's quick reactions saved lives, said Lt. Col. Scott Hopper, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

"This was an extremely dangerous situation," Hopper said. "Helder had a full truck on his way to fill the AAFES Service Station fuel tanks. Had he not notified first responders so quickly, we would have been looking at a situation with severe damage to equipment and facilities; not to mention loss of life."

Hopper noted that a fuel truck fire is not an incident that is typically rehearsed or practiced.

"No one hands you a card during an exercise saying, 'your truck is on fire,'" he said. "(Silva) was the guy on the scene. He had to use his instincts and good judgment to get him through this. He relied on training and did his job."

Both Silva and Hopper were quick to note the role that teamwork played in turning a very dangerous situation into one resolved without any injuries or further damage.

"Our 'Airmen here at Lajes, both American and Portuguese, are the epitome of a team. Teamwork, training and quick thinking were key to saving lives," said Hopper.

Silva, who cannot recall much after the arrival of first responders, said the safety of others was his biggest worry during the incident.

"My concern was to remove all cars and people from the area," he said.



Lajes firefighters put out a fuel truck fire May 25. (Photo by Guido Melo)

# CE provides tips to stop ant invasions

By Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Foley  
65th Civil Engineer Squadron

Summer months here at Lajes are a time for celebration, soaking in the sun and, unfortunately, ant infestations. While ants can hinder your summer fun, there are a few things to do to keep homes ant-free.

In order to manage this pest, here is some basic knowledge of their habits. The most common strife-causing ant is the Argentine ant. They can have large colonies and can be difficult to control. However, with a little bit of knowledge and patience these little buggers can be overcome.

Ants are attracted to homes because of two major factors: moisture and food. As with many other pests, sanitation is the number one weapon against them. Tiny crumbs behind the stove or some sticky soda cans in the recycling container will invite the ants further into the house. Unfortunately, even with the cleanest of homes, they still find their way in. This is why multiple approaches are necessary.

If sanitation is most important, exclusion comes in a close second. Cracks in the outside of the house and worn window seals create openings for water to slip under the foundation and produce a paradise for Argentine ants. Repair cracked seals with some silicone from the BX or self-help store. Base occupants can call Housing Maintenance to repair severe cracks. Checking door seals is easy. Close the front door. If there is light coming through the bottom corners, grab a screwdriver and extend door sweeps.

After sanitation and exclusion come other, more drastic pest management techniques. Keep in mind that chemicals should always be used as a last resort. While ants may be a pain to have around, it is important to remember that any chemical used in the house is more harmful than the ant presence. Luckily, pest control companies have



come up with low dose ant baits that are a more permanent solution than Raid or other harmful sprays. The baits serve as a food source for the foraging ants that take the poison bait back to their nest where it kills the colony from the inside. These baits are available at the BX and Commissary. Unfortunately, it may take several weeks before the ant population disappears, so please be patient. It is very important not to use any harsh chemicals or ant killer aerosols in conjunction with the bait so the scent is not ruined. After the baits are placed remove any clusters of ants by vacuuming or wiping them up with a moist paper towel. Rinse and repeat for up to two weeks before taking the next step.

If all the above measures have been tried and there is still a problem, the Civil Engineer Squadron's Pest Management (aka "Entomology") section can come out and survey the house. Contact CE's Customer Service line at 535-3335 (off base: 295-573-335) to create a work order. For more information on do-it-yourself pest management, please contact Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Foley at 535-5159 or elizabeth.foley@lajes.af.mil. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



# Lajes graduates honored at event

Feature

By Chrisinda Swede

Lajes Spouses Club President

The Lajes Spouses Club along with the Lajes Elementary/High School was honored to host this year's Senior Breakfast June 2. Blue and gold stars shimmered across the ballroom of the Top of the Rock Club, accentuating the theme "Shoot for the Stars" Seniors 2012.

The Senior Breakfast is a momentous occasion, celebrating the perseverance, dedication and tenacity of our Lajes High School seniors. It's also a time of recognition, allowing graduates, parents and teachers the opportunity to reflect upon and to recognize the many accomplishments of these talented young men and women.

Numerous school awards and accolades, monetary scholarships and the highly prestigious United States Naval Academy Appointment were highlights of the celebration.

Each year many of the private organizations from the Lajes community award monetary scholarships to our very deserving seniors. After enduring an extensive application and interview process for 10 private organizations, each of the six seniors who applied were awarded \$13,000 in scholarships.

To top off the event, Toderick Stevens, was presented an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, an honor bestowed upon less than 10 percent of all students nationwide.

Emotions ran high at the conclusion of the breakfast as the seniors made closing remarks about their time at Lajes and their hopes for the future.



Six seniors from the Class of 2012 received scholarships from Lajes community private organizations during the Senior Breakfast June 2. (Photo by Kathleen Rowland)

As we, too, look to the future, the Lajes Spouses Club will continue to provide support for our local community and will strive to spread the "Lajes Goodness."

The Lajes Spouses Club proudly salutes the Lajes Class of 2012: Desteny Braboy, Chandler Bruns, Anthony Ciranni, Ronda Hall, DeMarkus Hodge, Lexi Holes, Christopher Lester, Brenden Miller, Nicolas Miller and Toderick Stevens. We wish you continued success on your future endeavors!

## "Education" from page 2

Newman, wife of Capt. Walter Newman, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was born in Lima, Peru, and attended the Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas (University of Applied Sciences) there for two years.

After moving to the U.S., she attended West Virginia University. Upon graduating, she moved with her husband to Clovis, N.M., but found no fashion design industry for the degree which she'd earned.

She then pursued a master's degree in Sales and Marketing from CEU Business School of Madrid jointly with Instituto Europeo de Posgrado (European Institute of Graduate Studies.)

"This degree certainly helped here since part of my job is being the marketing representative for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University," said Newman. "I am also the academic advisor for all ERAU students at Lajes. I really enjoy my job because I am a firm believer that having an education is fundamental."

Newman said education has opened many doors for her, and she

finds her job as an academic advisor to be very rewarding.

"The sense of accomplishment a student feels when they get their diploma is amazing, and it is an honor to be a part of that," she said.

Newman said active duty students are an example because they usually work long hours and various shifts. Many of them have families as well as other responsibilities, yet they still manage to complete their school work and take full advantage of the educational benefits.

Newman said it's important for military spouses to have higher education as well.

"Being a military spouse is not easy in the professional aspect," she said. "Lots of us leave our careers aside to support our husbands or wives. Having a good education has helped me get various jobs while moving around. I see it as an opportunity to explore different industries and make my professional experience wider."

Servicemembers and dependents considering completing a degree here at Lajes can visit the Education Center in Building T-146 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 535-3355.

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Corey Whiting  
**Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Unit:** 729th AMS  
**Hometown:** Columbia, South Carolina  
**Duty Title:** Air Mobility Duty Controller  
**Accomplishments:** Sergeant Whiting is dual-certified under both AMC and USAFE task requirements. He engages and monitors all transient DOD aircraft. He coordinates with AMC

aircraft, along with aircrews, regarding cargo, passenger, maintenance status and mission updates from 618 Air Operations Center at Scott AFB. He also validates and processes Emergency Action Messages (EAMs) originating from both COMUSAFE and CJCS. He develops and ensures compliance Operational Reporting procedures that reach MAJCOM, Air Force and National level interest. As the alternate 65 ABW Status of Report and Training (SORTS) monitor, he analyzes operational readiness reporting for nine units. He establishes the procedures for reporting on wing assets and the training of personnel to HQ USAFE.



**Name:** Paulo A. Ataíde  
**Rank:** LGS-07  
**Unit:** 729th AMS  
**Hometown:** Santa Cruz, Praia da Vitória  
**Duty Title:** Passenger Service Shift Leader/Supervisor  
**Accomplishments:** Mr. Ataíde has over 24 years of service provided to the Lajes community in general and Air Mobility Command. Recently, in close coordination with the

Baltimore Passenger terminal, he assisted newcomers by ensuring a prompt and seamless transition to Lajes with proper adherence to the Foreign Clearance Guide. On a daily basis he leads his workforce in Space Available sign-up, coordination with host nation immigrations control and ensuring departing passengers are provided anti-hijacking checks according to the Transportation Security Administration guidelines. He was crucial in successfully leading the movement of over 800 missions with 16,000 passengers and 250,000 pounds of baggage. Mr. Ataíde conducted several Space "A" travel briefings and is a valued asset to the AMC Passenger Service team at Lajes!



# "6-5... IN THE FIGHT!"

Feature



A Boeing EA-18G Growler, a specialized version of the two-seat F/A-18F Super Hornet, from the Electronic Attack Squadron 135, formerly known as the World Famous Black Ravens, visits Lajes on a recent refueling mission. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Bishop F. Richard Spencer, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese for the Military Services, talks with Maj. Taona Enriquez, 65th Contracting Flight commander, during his visit to Lajes June 5. Spencer visited from Washington, D.C., to do a Pastoral Visit and a Confirmation Mass for six Confirmandi. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Team Lajes members attend the annual Business Information Meeting and Products Exposition where local vendors have the chance to showcase their products to the Lajes community for future business opportunities May 30. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Team Lajes firefighters show children from the local kindergarden Divertilaxia how to put out an imaginary fire using a water extinguisher during their visit to the Lajes Fire Station in celebration of Children's Day June 1. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Chief Master Sgt. Reginald Murrell, 65th Mission Support Group superintendent, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, tack on the newest promotee Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Lewis from the 65 Medical Group during the Monthly Promotion Ceremony May 31. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



# Mark your calendar

**CCAF/Bachelors/Masters Graduation Ceremony:**  
The Education Center and the Company Grade Officers' Council invite you to the 65th Air Base Wing 2012 Commencement Ceremony June 13 at 3 p.m. in the Top of the Rock Club Ballroom. Everyone is welcome to attend, but seating is limited. Come out to support Team Lajes in reaching their goals of higher education.



**Combat Dining Out:** The Combat Dining Out will be June 14 at 5 p.m. in T-605. The uniform for the Combat Dining Out is any combination of uniform that has a military feel and is in spirit of the event. DCUs and BDUs can be worn and altered as long as the alteration is in good taste and maintains a semblance of respect for the uniform. ABUs and Flight Suits may also be worn but not altered in any way. Spouses are encouraged to dress in combat gear of any form, again as long as it is in fairly good taste. For more information please contact Staff Sgt. Edgardo Cadungog at 535-3685.

**Golf Tournament:** The Lajes Spouses Club will be holding a Golf Tournament in observation of Flag Day on Thursday, June 14. Breakfast is at 7:45 a.m. and tee-off is at 8:45 a.m. The fee is \$35 per player. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, June 12 by COB. Contact Ron Salafia to sign-up at 924-249-169 or sgt\_rls@yahoo.com.

**Hunger Games:** The base theater will be hosting a Red Carpet Premiere for the movie "Hunger Games" June 15. It will begin at 9 p.m.

**Single and Unaccompanied Members (S.U.M.) Dinner:** The S.U.M. Dinner will be June 18 at the Chapel from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It is hosted by the 65th Medical Group.

**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 25 to 29 from 9 a.m. to noon for ages 3 through 12th grade. VBS is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel Protestant Community.



## Lajes Against Drunk Driving 295-57-LADD (5233)

Every year the Air Force loses great Airmen due to drunk driving. Please help save a life and career by calling Lajes Against Drunk Driving. LADD is a base program that provides free rides for individuals who've had too much to drink. LADD will be available between the hours of 9:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. every weekend.

The LADD program is available to all Lajes Airmen, so if you are the one who ends up needing a ride this or any weekend, call LADD.

For more information, please contact your squadron representative.

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** I am sorry sir/ma'am; I do not speak Portuguese. Do you speak English?

**PORTUGUESE:** Lamento senhor/senhora, eu não falo português. Fala inglês?

**PRONUNCIATION:** LahMENtoo snYOR/SenYORah. Ayoo now FOLloo PortooGAYsh. FAHlah eenGLEUSH?

## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Friday, Jun 8: 6:30 p.m. São Luís, São Bento (near Angra)  
Friday, Jun 8: 6:30 p.m. Posto Santo  
Saturday, Jun 9: 6:30 p.m. Serra São Tiago, (behind CE compound)  
Saturday, Jun 9: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, São Mateus  
Sunday, Jun 10: 6:30 p.m. Vila Nova  
Sunday, Jun 10: 6:30 p.m. Bairro Joaquim Alves  
Sunday, Jun 10: 6:30 p.m. Terra do Pão, São Mateus  
Monday, Jun 11: 6:30 p.m. Figueiras Pretas (near Angra)

### AFN Highlights:

You can see these AFN stories and more this week on AFN Atlantic on the following dates (All stories shown at these times: "News Update" at 1827 and 1857, and "Around the Air Force" at 1823.):

**June 12 - Information Awareness (Keeping the base network secure, one Airman at a time)**

**June 14 - Fitness Day (Lajes children compete in various sporting events)**



## ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



### Day of Portugal is celebrated June 10

The Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities is the formal name for the country's national day, which is celebrated every year on June 10.

The Day of Portugal, a national holiday, also commemorates the life of the greatest Portuguese poet of all times, Luiz Vaz de Camões, and recognizes the valuable contributions of the Portuguese immigrants worldwide.

In this day, it is customary for the President of the Republic to decorate Portuguese citizens, civilian and military, who have distinguished themselves in several areas or are being recognized for heroic acts.

The official ceremonies of the Day of Portugal are usually held in a different city every year. The city of Angra do Heroísmo had the privilege of hosting the ceremonies in June 2003 and being the center of attention throughout the country.

This year's ceremonies will take place in the city of Setúbal, located south of Lisbon, the country's capital.

Camões is the author of the epic poem "Os Lusíadas" (The Lusíads), considered one of the finest and most important works in Portuguese literature. This poem focuses mainly on an eccentric interpretation of the Portuguese discoveries.

In "Os Lusíadas," Camões portrays the Portuguese people as descendants from Lusus, companion of Dionysus and mythical founder of Lusitania, and loosely describes the country's history until the mid 16th century — concentrating on giving a heroic edge to the journey of the famous Portuguese discoverer Vasco da Gama, the first European to reach India by sea.

The day is also commemorated in most of the Portuguese communities abroad, namely in Europe, the U.S. and Canada.