

**PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE  
PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP PROJECT**

When The Portuguese-American Citizenship Project first came to my knowledge, I was deeply impressed and immediately decided to support it with strong enthusiasm.

For the past thirty years, I have many, many times visited the Portuguese communities in the United States, from coast to coast, all across America, since Massachusetts and Rhode Island to California and Hawaii.

A large number of these communities trace their roots to the Azores Islands, where I myself was born and for whose burden of governance took responsibility during almost two decades.

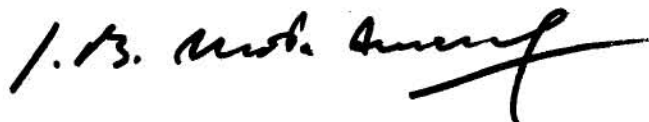
The leaders of the Portuguese-American communities helped me a lot to make the specific problems of the Azores more visible to US authorities. Political and financial aid from America was crucial, in some circumstances, to solve problems of the Azores, thus strengthening the old friendly relationship between Portugal and the United States.

I am convinced we could go further in these purposes, once every Portuguese person, men and women, living legally and permanently in America, become full citizens and registered voters in the United States.

Actually, I have said this in many occasions, speaking frankly to my fellow countrymen, along the different states of the Union.

I take this opportunity to emphasize the same message and endorse and commend the Portuguese-American Citizenship Project as a vehicle, not only for promoting luso-american ties of friendship and alliance, but also liberty, dignity and civic responsibility among portuguese immigrants in the United States.

I consider this Project a major and useful contribution of the Luso-American Foundation to implement its purpose of bringing Portugal and the United States close together.



JOÃO BOSCO MOTA AMARAL