

## UPSES FESTA 2026



Dear Portuguese Community,

As we continue our journey toward the 2026 Festa do Espírito Santo, I wanted to take a moment to speak from the heart and express my deepest gratitude to our community.

The Festa is a tradition rooted in faith, family, culture, and unity. For generations, our community has come together to honor the Espírito Santo, preserve our Portuguese heritage, and pass these traditions on to future generations. It is truly an honor for our family to carry this responsibility and host San Diego's oldest ethnic festival.

The 2026 Festa holds special meaning for my family, as it is being held **in loving memory of my mother**, whose devotion to the Festa, the Portuguese community, and our traditions continues to inspire us. Honoring her legacy through this Festa is both humbling and deeply personal.

The support we have received so far has been overwhelming and truly appreciated. From volunteers stepping forward, to organizations, families, and individuals offering their time, talents, and generosity, your encouragement has reminded us why this community is so special.

The Festa succeeds because of *you*—because of the shared belief that when we come together, we create something greater than ourselves. Your continued support strengthens not only the Festa, but the bonds that connect us as a Portuguese community.

As we move forward in the months ahead, we look forward to continuing this journey together and celebrating all that the Festa represents: tradition, devotion, remembrance, and community spirit.

On behalf of my family and the Festa committee, thank you for standing with us and for helping keep our traditions alive.

Many blessings and with heartfelt gratitude,

*Pamela Rodrigues*

Pamela Rodrigues

2026 Festa President

United Portuguese S.E.S. Festa do Espírito Santo