

JOURNEY, HERITAGE, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

Who is Vincent C. DaSilva?

Vince is a retired Merchant Marine Engineer of Portuguese descent and a veteran of the United States Navy. His lengthy ancestral maritime shipping background reflects his deep connection to nautical traditions and history. He is embarking on an exciting project to refit a sailboat named "American Saudade," with the ambition to sail from Newport to the Azores, Madeira Island, and the Cape Verde Islands before returning to Newport. "This journey is being undertaken in honor of our forefathers who emigrated to America for a better life for their families." (Ambassador of Goodwill)

The history of sailing from the Azores and Cape Verde to America is rich and complex. Historically, sailors from these islands faced daunting challenges in their voyages across the Atlantic. The Azores and Cape Verde became key departure points for immigrants, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries. Immigrants often faced harsh conditions on the sailing vessels, with overcrowding, disease, and long travel times being common hurdles. Despite these obstacles, many were driven by the aspiration for economic opportunities and the hope of providing a better future for their children in America. Their journeys contributed significantly to the cultural and economic landscapes of the communities they joined upon arrival, particularly in states like Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where sizeable Azorean and Cape Verdean populations reside today.

To engage the Rhode Island, Massachusetts Azorean, and Cape Verdean communities, Vince will employ a comprehensive social media program, including:

- Creating a website: A dedicated platform detailing his journey, heritage, and the historical significance of sailing from the Azores and Cape Verde.
- Social Media Outreach: Establishing accounts on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to share updates, stories from his refitting process, and historical narratives about the immigrant experience.
- Community Events: Organizing meet-and-greets or informational sessions to gather support, share his journey, and inspire participation within the community.
- Collaborative Efforts: Partnering with local cultural organizations to amplify awareness of his project and engage community members through storytelling, volunteer opportunities, and shared experiences.
- Merchandising and Promotions: Utilizing his slogan, "Be Part of the Adventure in History," to promote merchandise that raises awareness and funds to support his journey while celebrating a rich cultural heritage.

Vince aims to inspire engagement and participation from those of Cape Verdean and Azorean descent by fostering a sense of belonging and sharing the common history that binds the community.



Introduction to the Saudade Adventure Program

In Portuguese, the word for "longing" or "missing" is "**Saudade**." It conveys a deep emotional state of nostalgic longing for someone or something absent. The term carries a unique cultural significance in Portuguese-speaking communities.

Welcome to the Saudade Volunteer Program!

We are thrilled to launch the Saudade initiative, a community-driven effort dedicated to refitting a sailboat for an extraordinary journey that honors our maritime heritage and the legacy of those who have come before us. The name "Saudade," which draws inspiration from the rich cultural heritage of the Cape Verdean, Azorean, and Madeira Island communities, symbolizes unity, resilience, and a deep connection to the sea.

At Saudade, our mission is to engage the local communities of East Providence and surrounding areas as we work together to breathe new life into this sailboat. This project not only aims to prepare the vessel for a great circle voyage—from Newport to the Azores, Porto, Madeira Island, the Cape Verde Islands, and then back to Newport—but also to foster community bonds and celebrate the cultural narratives of those who migrated to the United States in search of a better life for their families.

Through hands-on volunteering, educational workshops, and community events, we invite individuals of all backgrounds to contribute their skills, learn about boat maintenance, and gain a collective sense of ownership in this adventure. Whether you have a deep maritime background or are simply enthusiastic about learning, your participation will play a vital role in making this vision a reality.

Join us on this incredible journey, where we pay homage to our forefathers and share our love for the sea. Together, we can create a lasting impact as we embark on a venture that celebrates our cultural heritage and strengthens community ties. Be a part of the adventure with Saudade!

Let's set sail toward new horizons together!

Expected Outcomes and Impact of the "Saudade Adventure" Project

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased Awareness of Cultural Heritage

- Participants and community members will develop a deeper understanding of the maritime history of their ancestors, including the challenges of emigration and the contributions of Cape Verdean and Azorean communities to American culture.
- Educational materials and workshops will be created to focus on the historical context of transatlantic journeys, ensuring that traditions are recognized and celebrated.

2. Engagement and Participation

- The project will actively involve volunteers from the local community in both the refitting process of the sailboat and the subsequent journey.
- Community members will experience a sense of achievement, ownership, and commitment to preserving their shared history by participating in hands-on activities.

3. Celebration of Community Stories

- A platform will be established for collecting and sharing personal narratives from the Cape Verdean and Azorean communities, preserving valuable histories that may otherwise be lost.
- Activities like storytelling workshops will connect youth with their heritage, facilitating intergenerational dialogue.

4. Educational Programs and Workshops

- Workshops on sailing, boat maintenance, and maritime skills will be developed, allowing community members to acquire new skills and knowledge applicable in various contexts.
- Collaborative efforts with local educational institutions will promote programs that connect maritime heritage with broader academic curricula.

5. Community Events and Cultural Exchange

- Throughout the project, events will be organized, including the boat's launch celebration and return gatherings, to strengthen community bonds.
- Cultural exchange programs will enable participants to share traditions, cuisine, music, and arts reflective of Cape Verdean and Azorean cultures.

6. Increased Visibility and Recognition

- The project will facilitate collaboration with local cultural organizations to celebrate the contributions and histories of Cape Verdean and Azorean populations.
- This visibility will enhance recognition of the cultural richness within Rhode Island and Massachusetts, fostering respect and support from the broader community.

Expected Impact

1. Strengthened Community Identity

- The project will help fulfill a critical need for community members to connect deeply with their heritage, fostering a greater sense of identity and pride.

- By rediscovering and honoring their maritime roots, participants will contribute to a robust cultural foundation for future generations.

2. Empowerment and Skill Development

- Volunteers and participants will gain practical skills that enhance their confidence and professional development, fostering a sense of empowerment.

- Skills learned during the refit and sailing experience will create pathways for future interests in maritime careers or volunteer opportunities.

3. Enhanced Community Networks

- The initiative will establish and strengthen networks among community leaders, organizations, and individuals, promoting collaborative efforts for cultural preservation.

- A sense of camaraderie and mutual support will emerge, encouraging ongoing community initiatives and participation.

4. Sustainable Practices and Maritime Education

- Emphasis on sustainable sailing and stewardship of marine environments will raise awareness about preserving ocean ecosystems.

- Educational content will focus on environmental responsibility, creating a culture of care for the natural world.

5. Building Bridges with Other Communities

- The project aims to serve as a bridge between diverse communities, fostering dialogue and appreciation of cultural diversity within the maritime context.

- Shared experiences among different cultural groups will cultivate mutual respect and an understanding of shared histories.

6. Legacy of Cultural Preservation

- The project outcomes will establish a template for future cultural initiatives focused on maritime heritage, encouraging similar efforts in other regions.

- The stories, skills, and connections made through this project will leave a legacy, inspiring ongoing cultural engagement for years.

