

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 244 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, KINSEY, READSHAW, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, MILLARD, DRISCOLL, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE, BOBACK, RYAN, LONGIETTI, HICKERNELL, DUSH, SONNEY, GREINER, MACKENZIE, WARD, MURT, SANKEY, DIGIROLAMO, WATSON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HENNESSEY, KNOWLES, GROVE, SOLOMON, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, PICKETT, STAATS, NEILSON, CONKLIN, WHEELAND, D. COSTA, MARSICO AND GILLEN, APRIL 17, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 17, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 20,
2 2017, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was born May 28, 1888, and was raised as
4 a member of the Native American Sac and Fox Nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was the grandson of the nation's chief,
6 Black Hawk, and was given the native name of Bright Path; and

7 WHEREAS, The accomplishments and legacy of Jim Thorpe were
8 not only part of his great "bright path" but have also been an
9 inspiration to people worldwide; and

10 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe overcame great tragedy in his youth to
11 attend the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, beginning in 1907;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, While at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Jim
14 Thorpe was coached by the legendary football coach Glenn Scobey
15 "Pop" Warner and was awarded All-American honors in 1911 and

1 1912; and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe honorably represented the Sac and Fox
3 Nation and the United States of America at the 1912 Olympic
4 Games in Stockholm, Sweden; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was the first United States athlete to
6 win the pentathlon and the decathlon in one Olympic year; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's athletic feats and the worldwide
8 publicity established the viability of the modern Olympic Games;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, To honor his gold medals in the pentathlon and
11 decathlon, Jim Thorpe received gifts from King Gustav V of
12 Sweden and Czar Nicholas II of Russia; and

13 WHEREAS, A ticker-tape parade was held in New York City upon
14 Jim Thorpe's return to the United States from Sweden; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals were revoked after he
16 was found to have violated strict rules regarding amateurism in
17 force at the time; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's medals were not reinstated until 1982,
19 30 years after his death, when the International Olympic
20 Committee recognized the improper application of the
21 disqualification procedures; and

22 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe had an illustrious professional career
23 after the Olympics, during which he played baseball for the New
24 York Giants, the Cincinnati Reds and the Boston Braves, football
25 for the Canton Bulldogs and basketball for two years after his
26 retirement from professional football; and

27 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe is considered one of football's founding
28 fathers as a result of his career as a professional football
29 player with the Canton Bulldogs, one of the four teams that made
30 up the American Professional Football Association, which later

1 became the National Football League; and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe, while coaching and playing for the
3 Canton Bulldogs, further supported the sport of football by
4 becoming the American Professional Football Association's first
5 president; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was voted America's Greatest All-Around
7 Male Athlete, was chosen as the greatest football player of the
8 half-century in 1950 by an Associated Press poll of
9 sportswriters and was named the American Broadcasting Company's
10 Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Century, which earned him
11 the honor of having his picture on a special-edition Wheaties
12 cereal box; and

13 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest American Football
14 Player in history in a 1977 national poll conducted by *Sport*
15 *Magazine*; and

16 WHEREAS, In being inducted into the Football Hall of Fame in
17 1963, Jim Thorpe was recognized for his dedication to the sport;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe served as a namesake for the Jim Thorpe
20 Award established in 1986 for the best defensive back in college
21 football; and

22 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's final resting place is in Jim Thorpe,
23 Carbon County; and

24 WHEREAS, The life of Jim Thorpe is defined by his legacy of
25 inspiring people around the world to light the way of their own
26 "bright paths"; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 20,
28 2017, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.