

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 21,
2 2016, 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 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
16 1912; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe honorably represented the Sac and Fox

1 Nation and the United States of America at the 1912 Olympic
2 games in Stockholm, Sweden; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's athletic feats and worldwide publicity
6 established the viability of the modern Olympic Games; and

7 WHEREAS, To honor him for his gold medals in the pentathlon
8 and decathlon, Jim Thorpe was awarded gifts by King Gustav V of
9 Sweden and Czar Nicholas II of Russia; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's medals were not reinstated until 1982,
16 30 years after his death, when the International Olympic
17 Committee recognized the improper application of the
18 disqualification procedures; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe is considered one of football's founding
25 fathers as a result of his career as a professional football
26 player with the Canton Bulldogs, one of the four teams that made
27 up the American Professional Football Association, which later
28 became the National Football League; and

29 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe, while coaching and playing for the
30 Canton Bulldogs, further supported the sport of football by

1 becoming the American Professional Football Association's first
2 president; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe has been regarded as America's greatest
4 all-around male athlete, was chosen as the greatest football
5 player of the half-century in 1950 by an Associated Press poll
6 of sportswriters and was named the American Broadcasting
7 Company's Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Century, which
8 earned him the honor of having his picture on a special-edition
9 Wheaties cereal box; and

10 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest American Football
11 Player in history in a 1977 national poll conducted by Sport
12 Magazine; and

13 WHEREAS, In being inducted into the Football Hall of Fame in
14 1963, Jim Thorpe was recognized for his dedication to the sport;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe served as a namesake for the Jim Thorpe
17 Award established in 1986 for the best defensive back in college
18 football; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's final resting place is in Jim Thorpe,
20 Carbon County; and

21 WHEREAS, The life of Jim Thorpe is not only defined by his
22 athletic aptitude, but by his legacy of inspiring people around
23 the world to light the way of their own "bright paths";
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 21,
26 2016, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.