
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 235 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, BIZZARRO, BURNS, STAATS, KINSEY, BROWN,
KORTZ, PICKETT, MURT, HILL-EVANS, KNOWLES, RYAN, MACKENZIE,
HICKERNELL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, SONNEY,
PYLE, READSHAW, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, SCHWEYER, BURGOS
AND MARKOSEK, APRIL 16, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 16, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 18,
2 2019, 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
16 1912; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Having been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of
16 Fame in 1963, Jim Thorpe was recognized for his dedication to
17 the sport; and

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 18,
27 2019, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.