

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 51 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, KINSEY, PICKETT, GREINER, R. MACKENZIE, JAMES, KHAN, TWARDZIK AND STAATS, MARCH 30, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 30, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 28,
2 2023, 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

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 the worldwide
6 publicity established the viability of the modern Olympic Games;
7 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe, while coaching and playing for the

1 Canton Bulldogs, further supported the sport of football by
2 becoming the American Professional Football Association's first
3 president; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 28,
26 2023, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.