
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 702 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, CUTLER, ADOLPH, BISHOP, HAHN, KIRKLAND,
NEILSON, GRELL, MCNEILL, COHEN, HENNESSEY, KNOWLES, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, O'NEILL, ROSS, CALTAGIRONE, SONNEY, THOMAS, MALONEY,
STERN, REED, HARHART, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, KILLION, BARRAR,
SWANGER, LONGIETTI, LUCAS, MUSTIO, MACKENZIE, BARBIN,
MIRABITO, HICKERNELL, GROVE, FLECK, YOUNGBLOOD, GOODMAN,
MARSICO, MAJOR, DeLUCA, CLYMER, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, D. COSTA,
SACCONE AND ROCK, MARCH 13, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 17,
2 2014, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was born on May 28, 1888, and was raised
4 as 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

1 "Pop" Warner and was awarded All-American honors in 1911 and
2 1912; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe is considered one of football's founding
29 fathers as a result of his career as a professional football
30 player with the Canton Bulldogs, one of the four teams that made

1 up the American Professional Football Association, which later
2 became the National Football League; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 17,
30 2014, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.