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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 850 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, BIZZARRO, DONATUCCI, KNOWLES, RABB,  
BOBACK, LONGIETTI, SCHMITT, KIM, RYAN, HENNESSEY, JONES,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, HICKERNELL, PICKETT, FREEMAN, MACKENZIE,  
BURGOS, PYLE, KORTZ, NEILSON, BROWN, SONNEY, GREINER,  
READSHAW, MILLARD, BURNS, BROOKS, MALAGARI, POLINCHOCK AND  
WHEELAND, APRIL 20, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 20, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 16,  
2 2020, 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 16,  
27 2020, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.