

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 152 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, O'NEILL, KNOWLES, BEAR, BISHOP, BOYD, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DAY, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, JOHNSON, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MAHER, MAJOR, MALONEY, MANN, MARSICO, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, THOMAS, TOOHL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND BLOOM, MARCH 28, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 28, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 21,  
2 2011, 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

1 Thorpe was coached by the legendary football coach Glenn Scobey  
2 "Pop" Warner and was awarded All-American honors in 1911 and  
3 1912; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe is considered one of football's founding  
30 fathers as a result of his career as a professional football

1 player with the Canton Bulldogs, one of the four teams that make  
2 up the American Professional Football Association, which later  
3 became the National Football League; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 21,

1 2011, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.