
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1001 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, KNOWLES, KINSEY, FREEMAN, MURT,
YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, MOUL, NEILSON, PYLE, GAYDOS AND
MILLARD, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the International Olympic Committee to reinstate Jim
2 Thorpe as the sole gold medal winner of the pentathlon and
3 the decathlon events of the 1912 Olympic games in Stockholm,
4 Sweden.

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was born May 28, 1888, and was raised as
6 a member of the Native American Sac and Fox Nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was the grandson of the nation's chief,
8 Black Hawk, and was given the native name of Bright Path; and

9 WHEREAS, The accomplishments and legacy of Jim Thorpe were
10 not only part of his great "bright path," but have also been an
11 inspiration to people worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe overcame great tragedy in his youth to
13 attend the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in 1907; and

14 WHEREAS, While at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Jim
15 Thorpe was coached by the legendary football coach Glenn Scobey
16 "Pop" Warner and was awarded All-American honors in 1911 and
17 1912; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe honorably represented the Native American

1 Sac and Fox Nation and the United States 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 worldwide publicity
6 established the viability of the modern Olympic Games; and

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

10 WHEREAS, A ticker-tape parade was held in New York City upon
11 Jim Thorpe's return to the United States from Sweden in 1912;
12 and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Although Jim Thorpe's gold medals were reinstated in
21 1982, he was not recognized as the sole gold medal winner of the
22 pentathlon and the decathlon events, rather he was recognized as
23 a co-gold medal winner with the athletes who were elevated to
24 gold medal status after his gold medals were revoked; therefore
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
27 encourage the International Olympic Committee to reinstate Jim
28 Thorpe as the sole gold medal winner of the pentathlon and the
29 decathlon events of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden;
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of
2 Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transmit a
3 copy of this resolution to the President of the International
4 Olympic Committee, the President of the United States Olympic
5 Committee, the President of the United States, the President pro
6 tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
7 States House of Representatives, each member of Congress from
8 Pennsylvania and the presiding officers of each house of the
9 state legislatures requesting their cooperation in encouraging
10 this reinstatement.