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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe honorably represented the Native American
Sac and Fox Nation and the United States at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly encourage the International Olympic Committee to reinstate Jim Thorpe as the sole gold medal winner of the pentathlon and the decathlon events of the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the International Olympic Committee, the President of the United States Olympic Committee, the President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the presiding officers of each house of the state legislatures requesting their cooperation in encouraging this reinstatement.