PRINTER'S NO. 3378

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 675 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, BRENNAN, R. BROWN, CLYMER, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, KNOWLES, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, VEREB AND VULAKOVICH, APRIL 16, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 16, 2012

A RESOLUTION

Honoring Jacobus Franciscus "Jim" Thorpe by designating May 19, 2012, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was born on 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, beginning 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 Sac and Fox Nation and the United States of America 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 the worldwide publicity established the viability of the modern Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, To honor him for his gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon, Jim Thorpe was awarded gifts by King Gustav 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe is considered one of football's founding fathers as a result of his career as a professional football player with the Canton Bulldogs, one of the four teams that make up the American Professional Football Association, which later

became the National Football League; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 19, 2012, as "Jim Thorpe Day" in Pennsylvania.