

**DOYLE HEFFLEY, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
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TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Doyle Heffley *DH*
122nd Legislative District
DATE: February 16, 2011
RE: Co-Sponsorship of Resolution – Jim Thorpe Day

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution to designate May 21, 2011 as Jim Thorpe Day in Pennsylvania.

Jacobus Franciscus Thorpe was born on May 28, 1888 near Prague, Oklahoma and was a member of the Native American Sac and Fox nation. He attended the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, where he played football and was awarded All-American honors in 1911 and 1912. In 1912 he represented the United States at the Olympic Games in Stockholm where he became the first American athlete to win the pentathlon and decathlon in one Olympic year.

Jim Thorpe played baseball for the New York Giants, Cincinnati Reds and Boston Braves; football for the Canton Bulldogs; and basketball for two years after his retirement from professional football. While coaching and playing for the Canton Bulldogs he became the American Professional Football Association's first president.

Jim Thorpe's final resting place is Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, which was renamed Jim Thorpe in 1954 after this exceptional athlete. After his death, he was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame, voted America's Greatest All-Around Athlete, named ABC's Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Century and served as a namesake for the Jim Thorpe Award which was established in 1986 for the best defensive back in college football.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Linda Schylaske at lschylas@pahousegop.com or 260-6139.

DH:ljs