ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 39

By: Haney, Cole, Fisher, Bell, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Ford, Gustafson, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Monson, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom, Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don), Williams (Penny) and Wright of the Senate

and

Wells, Kinnamon, Adair, Adkins, Anthony, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Benson, Beutler, Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd (Betty), Boyd (Laura), Breckinridge, Bryant, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Cotner, Cox, Cozort, Crocker, Culver, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, Dunegan, Dunlap, Eddins, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson, Fields, Glover, Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hager, Hamilton, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Holt, Hutchison, Johnson, Key, Kirby, Kouba, Langmacher, Leist, Maddux, Mass, Matlock, McCorkell, Miller, Mitchell, Morgan, O'Neal, Paulk, Peltier, Perry, Pettigrew, Phillips, Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim), Ramsey, Reese, Rhodes, Rice, Roach, Roberts, Ross, Sadler, Satterfield, Seikel, Settle, Smaligo, Smith (Bill), Smith (Dale), Staggs, Stanley, Steidley, Stites, Stottlemyre, Sullivan (John), Sullivan (Leonard), Taylor, Thomas, Thornbrugh, Toure, Tyler, Vaughn, Voskuhl, Weaver, Webb, Weese and Worthen of the House

A Concurrent Resolution thanking the United States Olympic Committee for honoring the memory of Jim Thorpe; declaring Jim Thorpe "America's Athlete of the Century"; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe, a direct descendant of the famous warrior, Chief Black Hawk, was born May 22, 1887, in Keokuk Falls, Indian Territory, south of present day Prague, Oklahoma. Wa-tho-huck or "Bright Path" of the Thunder Clan, Sac and Fox tribe, was the son of a Sac and Fox-Irish father and a Kickapoo-French mother. In 1917, Jim Thorpe sold his Sac and Fox tribal land allotment and purchased a home in Yale, Oklahoma, where the Jim Thorpe Home remains open today as a museum; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe won two gold medals in the 1912 Olympics in the pentathlon and decathlon, the only man to ever sweep both events. At that time, King Gustav V of Sweden named Jim Thorpe the "greatest athlete in the world". As the Olympic torch passes through Oklahoma this year on its way to Atlanta, Georgia, it will pass through Prague, Oklahoma, to honor the memory of Jim Thorpe; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe excelled in football at Haskell Indian School in Kansas and at the Carlisle Institute in Pennsylvania. He played professional football from 1915 through 1929 and was the first President of the National Football League (NFL). Jim Thorpe was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Each year the Jim Thorpe Trophy is awarded to the most valuable player in professional football; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe played major league professional baseball for many years, batting .327 for the Boston Braves in 1919. Jim Thorpe excelled at basketball, lacrosse, wrestling and soccer; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, the Associated Press asked a panel of sportswriters to name the greatest male athlete of the first fifty years of the twentieth century and Jim Thorpe was the overwhelming choice. Jim Thorpe is still considered as America's greatest all-around athlete of the century.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature thanks the United States Olympic Committee for routing the Olympic torch through Prague, Oklahoma, to honor the memory of Jim Thorpe.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature declares Jim Thorpe "America's Athlete of the Century".

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the family of Jim Thorpe; the mayor of Prague, Oklahoma; the mayor of Yale, Oklahoma; the United States Olympic Committee; and the Associated Press.