

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1030

By: Benson, Adair, Adkins, Askins, Begley, Benge, Beutler, Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd, Braddock, Bryant, Calvey, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Collins, Corn, Covey, Cox, Culver, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, Dunegan, Easley, Eddins, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson, Fields, Frame, Gilbert, Glover, Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kinnamon, Kirby, Kouba, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, Mass, Matlock, McCarter, Miller, Mitchell, Morgan, Nance, Nations, Newport, Ostrander, Paulk, Perry, Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim), Reese, Rice, Roach, Roberts, Roggow, Ross, Seikel, Sellers, Settle, Smith (Dale), Smith (Hopper), Staggs, Stanley, Stites, Sullivan (John), Sullivan (Leonard), Sweeden, Taylor, Thomas, Thornbrugh, Toure, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Weaver, Webb, Wells, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen and Wright

A Resolution urging the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network to proclaim Jim Thorpe as the Athlete of the Century; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Wa-tho-huck or "Bright Path", but known to the world as Jim Thorpe, was born in Keokuk Falls, Indian Territory, south of present day Prague, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe initially gained national recognition for his exploits on the football field, playing for legendary football coach Glen S. "Pop" Warner's United States Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, from 1908 through 1912, during which he received many honors, including first team All-American and setting national scoring records; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe then gained national and international fame for his achievements in track and field in 1912 by winning the pentathlon and decathlon at the Amateur Athletic Union's National Championship Trials held in May 1912 and then at Olympiad VI held in Stockholm in July 1912; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe achieved immortality in the sports world by excelling in fifteen strenuous track and field events at the Olympics over only ten days, winning the broad jump, the 200-meter

dash, the discus throw and the 1,500-meter run in the pentathlon, and then winning the decathlon by finishing first in the shot put, the high jump, the 110-meter hurdles, and the 1,500-meter run; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe's winning of the decathlon and pentathlon have never been equaled in Olympic history and contributed immeasurably to the progress of the Olympic movement; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe moved on to successful careers in professional baseball and football, playing major league baseball for the New York Giants, the Cincinnati Reds, and the Boston Braves, ending the 1919 season with a .327 batting average; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe also played football in the young American Professional Football Association, later renamed the National Football League, in the fall and winter first with the Canton Bulldogs, which he captained to the 1919 championship, and later the Oorang Indians of LaRue, Ohio, which he helped to organize and which was the smallest ever National Football League franchise, and several other teams before retiring from professional football in 1929; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe in 1919 was the first elected president of the American Professional Football Association; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was the first and only American athlete to excel as an amateur or professional in three major sports; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was named greatest male athlete and greatest football player of the first half of the twentieth century by the Associated Press in 1950, elected to the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1963, and the Greatest Football Player in American history by *Sport* magazine in a 1977 national poll, and elected to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma and Pennsylvania halls of fame; and

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe took an active interest in the young people of the United States, most notably in helping to establish the National Junior Olympics in 1949.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives joins with the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, which adopted House Resolution 113 on April 14, 1999, by a unanimous vote, and the Jim Thorpe Home in Yale, Oklahoma, which is conducting a petition drive, urging the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) to proclaim Jim Thorpe as the Athlete of the Century.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, the Chief Clerk of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Jim Thorpe Home.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 12th day of May,
1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives