

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 CONCURRENT  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 38

By: Fisher, Cain, Campbell,  
Capps, Coffee,  
Crutchfield, Dickerson,  
Douglass, Dunlap, Easley,  
Fair, Ford, Haney,  
Harrison, Helton, Henry,  
Herbert, Hobson, Horner,  
Johnson, Kerr, Laughlin,  
Leftwich, Littlefield,  
Maddox, Martin, Mickle,  
Milacek, Monson, Morgan,  
Muegge, Nichols, Price,  
Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds,  
Riley, Robinson, Rozell,  
Shurden, Smith, Snyder,  
Stipe, Taylor, Wilcoxson,  
Wilkerson, Williams and  
Williamson of the Senate

and

Friskup of the House

16 A Concurrent Resolution proclaiming Saturday, May 26,  
17 2001, "Jim Thorpe Honor Day" in the State of  
18 Oklahoma; encouraging all Oklahomans to join in  
19 celebrating the achievements of this athlete; and  
20 directing distribution.

21 WHEREAS, James Francis Thorpe, known universally as "Jim  
22 Thorpe", was born May 22, 1887, on the Sac and Fox Indian  
23 Reservation, at Keakuk Falls, Indian Territory, which is now known  
24 as Prague. He was the son of parents belonging to the Thunder Clan  
25 of the Sac and Fox Tribe; and

26 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was educated at Haskell Institute, in  
27 Lawrence, Kansas, and at the Carlisle Indian School. During his  
28 first year at Carlisle, young Thorpe displayed remarkable prowess  
29 and won the attention of Pop Warner, then Carlisle's coach. During  
30 one track event, Thorpe almost single-handedly overcame the entire  
31 Lafayette track team, winning six events. He established his  
32 amateur football record playing halfback, defender, punter, and  
place-kicker. In 1911 and 1912 he was chosen as Walter Camp's First

1 Team All-American Halfback. In 1912 he scored 25 touchdowns and 198  
2 points, leading his Carlisle Indian School team to a national  
3 collegiate championship; and

4 WHEREAS, after winning the pentathlon and the decathlon at the  
5 Amateur Athletic Union National Championship Trials in Boston,  
6 Massachusetts, Jim Thorpe represented the United States and the Sac  
7 and Fox Nation in 1912 at the Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden.  
8 Thorpe won gold medals in both the Pentathlon and Decathlon. King  
9 Gustav V of Sweden said, "You, Sir, are the greatest athlete in the  
10 world", when he awarded the two gold medals to Jim Thorpe. He was  
11 the first American athlete to win a gold medal in the decathlon, in  
12 which he set a world record; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1913 Jim Thorpe signed a contract to play baseball  
14 with the New York Giants. He played as an outfielder with the  
15 Giants and later with the Cincinnati Reds and the Boston Braves.  
16 His best season was his last one when in 1919 he batted .327 in 60  
17 games with the Boston Braves; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1915 Jim Thorpe organized and agreed to play  
19 professional football for the Canton Bulldogs. He was a key part of  
20 the team, which was recognized as national champions in 1916, 1917,  
21 and 1919. He later played with the Cleveland Indians, the Oorang  
22 Indians, the Rock Island Independents, the New York Giants, and the  
23 Chicago Cardinals. In 1920 Jim Thorpe became the first President of  
24 the American Football Association, which was later to become the  
25 National Football League. He is recognized today as a founding  
26 father of professional football; and

27 WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was the only American athlete to excel as an  
28 amateur and professional in three major sports: track and field,  
29 football, and baseball. As an athlete, Jim Thorpe also excelled at  
30 lacrosse, basketball, ice hockey, swimming, boxing, tennis, and  
31 archery; and

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1       WHEREAS, after retirement from athletics, Jim Thorpe acted in  
2 motion pictures, lectured on Native American culture, and served as  
3 a seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II; and

4       WHEREAS, in 1950 nearly 400 American sportswriters and  
5 broadcasters selected Jim Thorpe as the Associated Press Greatest  
6 All-Around Male Athlete and Greatest Football Player in the first  
7 half of the 20th century. Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest  
8 American Football Player in History in a 1977 national poll  
9 conducted by Sport Magazine; and

10       WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was inducted into the National Track and  
11 Field Hall of Fame; the Professional Football Hall of Fame; the  
12 Helms Professional Football Hall of Fame; the National Indian Hall  
13 of Fame; the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame; and the Oklahoma Hall of  
14 Fame; and

15       WHEREAS, in acknowledgement of Jim Thorpe's contribution to  
16 sports in the second decade of this century, the United States  
17 Postal Service honored the Sac and Fox athlete with a commemorative  
18 stamp on January 30, 1998, at the Oklahoma State Capitol's Rotunda  
19 as part of the postal services' "Celebrate the Century Program".  
20 The Jim Thorpe stamp went on sale nationwide on February 3, 1998;  
21 and

22       WHEREAS, on May 3, 1999, the United States Senate introduced  
23 Senate Resolution 91 resolving that it was the sense of the Senate  
24 that Jim Thorpe should be recognized as the "Athlete of the Century"  
25 while on May 27, 1999, the United States House of Representatives  
26 introduced House Resolution 198 designating James Francis Thorpe as  
27 "America's Athlete of the Century"; and

28       WHEREAS, the Jim Thorpe Family and the Sac and Fox Tribe are co-  
29 sponsoring Jim Thorpe Honor Day on Saturday, May 26, 2001, at the  
30 Sac and Fox Community Center near Stroud, Oklahoma.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
2 OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 CONCURRING THEREIN:

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature proclaims Saturday, May 26,  
5 2001, "Jim Thorpe Honor Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

6 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages all Oklahomans to  
7 join in celebrating the remarkable achievements of this  
8 extraordinary athlete.

9 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Jim Thorpe  
10 Family and the Sac and Fox Tribe.

11 Adopted by the Senate the 17th day of May, 2001.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Adopted by the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2001.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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