

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
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, Adair, Adkins, Askins,
Balkman, Begley, Benge, Benson,
Blackburn, Bonny, Braddock,
Calvey, Cargill, Case, Claunch,
Coleman, Corn, Covey, Cox,
Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf,
Dunegan, Easley, Eddins,
Ericson, Ervin, Erwin,
Ferguson, Fields, Gilbert,
Glover, Graves, Gray,
Greenwood, Hastings, Hefner,
Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison,
Ingmire, Jones, Kirby,
Langmacher, Leist, Lindley,
Liotta, Maddux, Mass, Matlock,
McCarter, Miller (Doug), Miller
(Ray), Mitchell, Morgan, Nance,
Nations, Newport, O'Neal,
Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson,
Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt,
Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim),
Rice, Roach, Roan, Roberts,
Roggow, Ross, Smaligo, Smith
(Dale), Smith (Hopper), Staggs,
Stanley, Steele, Stites,
Sullivan (John), Sullivan
(Leonard), Sweeden, Taylor,
Tibbs, Toure, Turner, Tyler,
Vaughn, Walker, Webb, Wells,
Wilson, Wilt, Winchester,
Worthen, Wright and Young of
the House

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

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

WHEREAS, Jim Thorpe was educated at Haskell Institute, in Lawrence, Kansas, and at the Carlisle Indian School. During his first year at Carlisle, young Thorpe displayed remarkable prowess and won the attention of Pop Warner, then Carlisle's coach. During one track event, Thorpe almost single-handedly overcame the entire Lafayette track team, winning six events. He established his amateur football record playing halfback, defender, punter, and place-kicker. In 1911 and 1912 he was chosen as Walter Camp's First Team All-American Halfback. In 1912 he scored 25 touchdowns and 198 points, leading his Carlisle Indian School team to a national collegiate championship; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 23rd day of May,
2001.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives