

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 91

Expressing the sense of the Senate that Jim Thorpe should be recognized as the “Athlete of the Century”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 1999

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that Jim Thorpe should be recognized as the “Athlete of the Century”.

1 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT JIM THORPE**
2 **SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS THE “ATHLETE**
3 **OF THE CENTURY”.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

5 (1) Jim Thorpe is the only athlete ever to excel
6 as an amateur and a professional in 3 major
7 sports—track and field, football, and baseball.

8 (2) Prior to the 1912 Olympic Games, Jim
9 Thorpe won the pentathlon and the decathlon at the

1 Amateur Athletic Union National Championship
2 Trials in Boston, Massachusetts.

3 (3) Jim Thorpe represented the United States
4 and the Sac and Fox Nation in the 1912 Olympic
5 Games in Stockholm, Sweden, where he won a gold
6 medal in the pentathlon, became the first American
7 athlete to win a gold medal in the decathlon, in
8 which he set a world record, and became the only
9 athlete in Olympic history to win both the pen-
10 tathlon and the decathlon during the same year.

11 (4) The athletic feats of Jim Thorpe resulted in
12 worldwide publicity that helped to ensure the viabil-
13 ity of the Olympic Games.

14 (5) During his major league baseball career,
15 Jim Thorpe played with the New York Giants, the
16 Cincinnati Reds, and the Boston Braves, and ended
17 the 1919 baseball season with a .327 batting aver-
18 age.

19 (6) Jim Thorpe established his amateur football
20 record playing halfback, defender, punter, and place-
21 kicker while he was a student at the Carlisle Indian
22 School in Pennsylvania, and was chosen as Walter
23 Camp's First Team All-American Half-Back in 1911
24 and 1912.

1 (7) Jim Thorpe was a founding father of pro-
2 fessional football, playing with the Canton Bulldogs,
3 which was the team recognized as world champion in
4 1916, 1917, and 1919, the Cleveland Indians, the
5 Oorang Indians, the Rock Island Independent, the
6 New York Giants, and the Chicago Cardinals.

7 (8) In 1920, Jim Thorpe was named the first
8 president of the American Professional Football As-
9 sociation, now known as the National Football
10 League.

11 (9) Jim Thorpe was voted America's Greatest
12 All-Around Male Athlete and chosen as the greatest
13 football player of the half-century in 1950 by an As-
14 sociated Press poll of sportswriters.

15 (10) Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest
16 American Football Player in History in a 1977 na-
17 tional poll conducted by Sport Magazine.

18 (11) Because of his outstanding achievements,
19 Jim Thorpe was inducted into the National Track
20 and Field Hall of Fame, the Professional Football
21 Hall of Fame, the Helms Professional Football Hall
22 of Fame, the National Indian Hall of Fame, the
23 Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall
24 of Fame.

1 (12) The immeasurable sports achievements of
2 Jim Thorpe have long been an inspiration to the
3 youth in Pennsylvania and throughout the United
4 States.

5 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
6 Senate that Jim Thorpe should be recognized as the “Ath-
7 lete of the Century”.

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