

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 198

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that James Francis Thorpe should be designated “America’s Athlete of the Century”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 27, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself and Mr. WATKINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that James Francis Thorpe should be designated “America’s Athlete of the Century”.

Whereas James Francis Thorpe, known as “Jim Thorpe” Wathahuck-Brightpath, of the Thunder Clan of the Sac and Fox Tribe, was born May 22, 1887, on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation, Prague, Oklahoma, and died March 28, 1953, in Lomita, California;

Whereas Jim Thorpe began his amateur football career as a student at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where he was named All American Half-Back in 1911 and 1912;

Whereas Jim Thorpe represented the United States at the 1912 Olympic Games held in Stockholm, Sweden, though

he did not become a citizen of the United States until 1917;

Whereas King Gustav V of Sweden said, “You, Sir, are the greatest athlete in the world,” when he awarded 2 gold medals to Jim Thorpe for winning the pentathlon and the decathlon;

Whereas Jim Thorpe founded professional football, played professional football for, and later was the first elected president of, the American Football Association (now the National Football League);

Whereas Jim Thorpe played major league baseball for 20 years with the New York Giants, the Cincinnati Reds, and the Boston Braves;

Whereas Jim Thorpe is the only American athlete to excel at the amateur level and at the professional level in 3 major sports—track and field, football, and baseball;

Whereas Jim Thorpe was named America’s Greatest All-Around Athlete in 1950 by the Associated Press and in 1977 by Sport Magazine; and

Whereas Jim Thorpe has been enshrined in the Helms Professional Football Hall of Fame and the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the United States House of Rep-
- 2   resentatives designates James Francis Thorpe “America’s
- 3   Athlete of the Century”.

