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”.

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

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

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

(2) Prior to the 1912 Olympic Games, Jim Thorpe won the pentathlon and the decathlon at the
Amateur Athletic Union National Championship Trials in Boston, Massachusetts.

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

(4) The athletic feats of Jim Thorpe resulted in worldwide publicity that helped to ensure the viability of the Olympic Games.

(5) During his major league baseball career, Jim Thorpe played with the New York Giants, the Cincinnati Reds, and the Boston Braves, and ended the 1919 baseball season with a .327 batting average.

(6) Jim Thorpe established his amateur football record playing halfback, defender, punter, and placekicker while he was a student at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, and was chosen as Walter Camp’s First Team All-American Half-Back in 1911 and 1912.
(7) Jim Thorpe was a founding father of professional football, playing with the Canton Bulldogs, which was the team recognized as world champion in 1916, 1917, and 1919, the Cleveland Indians, the Oorang Indians, the Rock Island Independent, the New York Giants, and the Chicago Cardinals.

(8) In 1920, Jim Thorpe was named the first president of the American Professional Football Association, now known as the National Football League.

(9) Jim Thorpe was voted America’s Greatest All-Around Male Athlete and chosen as the greatest football player of the half-century in 1950 by an Associated Press poll of sportswriters.

(10) Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest American Football Player in History in a 1977 national poll conducted by Sport Magazine.

(11) Because of his outstanding achievements, 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.
(12) The immeasurable sports achievements of Jim Thorpe have long been an inspiration to the youth in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that Jim Thorpe should be recognized as the “Athlete of the Century”.

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