

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 667
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/27/03**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2003

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM THORPE.

2 Whereas, Jim Thorpe, born in Oklahoma Indian Territory in 1887, has been
3 described by many as the greatest athlete of the 20th century; and

4 Whereas, Jim Thorpe competed in the 1912 Olympics, where he was the first
5 and only competitor to win both the pentathlon and decathlon events; and

6 Whereas, during that same year, Jim Thorpe made 25 touchdowns and scored
7 198 points to lead the football team at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in
8 Pennsylvania to the national collegiate championship; and

9 Whereas, a few months later, Jim Thorpe was declared a professional athlete
10 because he had played baseball during the summers of 1909 and 1910 in North Carolina
11 and had to relinquish his cherished Olympic medals; and

12 Whereas, in 1913, Jim Thorpe began a career in professional baseball and
13 football, playing six seasons for the New York Giants while simultaneously playing for
14 the Canton, Ohio Bulldogs football team, which he led to several world championships;
15 and

16 Whereas, in 1929, Jim Thorpe retired from professional athletic competition
17 but, years later, at the age of 57 volunteered for and served in the Merchant Marines
18 during World War II; and

19 Whereas, Jim Thorpe died on March 28, 1953, leaving a legacy of athletic
20 achievement; and

21 Whereas, in 1982, after decades of national and international campaigns on
22 his behalf, Olympic officials conceded that Jim Thorpe's amateur status had not been
23 violated prior to the 1912 Olympics and in 1983 awarded new Olympic medals to his
24 family; and

25 Whereas, as we approach the 50th anniversary of Jim Thorpe's death, it is
26 fitting to pay tribute to his life and accomplishments; Now, therefore,

27 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

28 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives wishes to honor the memory of
29 Jim Thorpe, a great American who is worthy of respect and admiration for his
30 commitment to fair play, patriotism, and athletic excellence.

1 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives encourages the citizens of this
2 State to join them in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Jim Thorpe's death on March
3 28, 2003.

4 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.