

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

**H**

**Simple  
Resolution  
Adopted**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 667  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/27/03  
Engrossed and Adopted 3/27/03**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

4           **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives encourages the citizens of this  
5 State to join them in celebrating the life and accomplishments of the legendary Jim  
6 Thorpe on March 28, 2003, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

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