

“Bright Path”

This piece is a tribute to Oklahoman, James Francis Thorpe, who was a member of the Sac and Fox Nation. He was born “Wa-Tho-Huk,” translated as “Bright Path,” in May of 1887. He died March 28, 1953.

The image of Jim Thorpe (Fabricated by 3DM Metal Arts) depicts him in his Olympic uniform. Jim represented the United States, depicted by the painted flag in the background, in the 1912 Olympics. During the Olympics, Jim became the first Native American to win a gold medal for the United States, placing first in both the pentathlon and decathlon.

During his career, Jim played six seasons in Major League Baseball and for six teams in the National Football League. Jim also played professional basketball on a team composed entirely of American Indians.

The Associated Press named Thorpe the “greatest athlete” from the first 50 years of the 20th century. The El Paso Herald, depicted in the background, headlined “Indian is World’s Great Athlete.”