

State of Alabama
House of Representatives



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Resolution

HJR126

By Representatives Ronald Grantham and John "Jody" Letson

m:8/21/2010-CAJwfy LRS2010-316

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND LIFE OF NATIVE ALABAMIAN AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, JAMES CLEVELAND "JESSE" OWENS, BY DESIGNATING A PORTION OF HIGHWAY 36 IN MORGAN COUNTY AS THE "THE JESSE OWENS PARKWAY"

WHEREAS, with great pride and adulation, we recognize and honor the distinguished career and life of Native Alabamian and Olympic Gold Medalist James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens by naming a highway in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a native son, born September 12, 1913, in Oakville, Lawrence County, Alabama, Jesse Owens was a 1936 Olympic medalist, the recipient of four gold medals in the games held in Nazi Germany, one each in the 100 meters, the 200 meters, the long jump, and as part of the 4x100 meter relay team, an extraordinary athletic accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Owens, at the age of 22, brought fame and honor to the United States while disproving to the entire world Adolph Hitler's theory of Aryan supremacy, and shattering Hitler's hopes of proving such a fallacy at the Berlin games; and

WHEREAS, even prior to the Olympics, Jesse Owens displayed his athletic prowess as a high school student in Cleveland, Ohio, by tying the world record of 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash, and as an Ohio State University student, affectionately known as the "Buckeye Bullet," by winning a record eight individual NCAA championships; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Owens will long be remembered, not only for his outstanding accomplishments in the world of sports, but for his contributions to the world as an extraordinary human being; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with great honor we recognize Jesse Owens, a native of Oakville, Lawrence County, Alabama, for his superb achievements in track and field and for the legacy that he left both in our nation and this great state of Alabama, and hereby designate that portion of Highway 36 in Morgan County from the intersection of Highway 36 with Interstate 65 to the Lawrence County line as "The Jesse Owens Parkway."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Jesse Owens as a keepsake of this honorable designation.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the proper officials are hereby requested to erect and maintain signs indicating this designation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the GREAT SEAL of the State of Alabama to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 1st day of April, 2010.

GOVERNOR



Beth Chapman

Secretary of State



Advertiser photo by Ginger Grantham

Road becomes 'Jesse Owens Parkway,' will allow tourist signs on I-65 interstate

Ala. 36 from the Hartselle exit on I-65 to the Morgan County line has been designated as the Jesse Owens Parkway. State Representative Jody Letson said that Ala. 36 was chosen because Ala. 157 is already named. Letson brought the proclamation to a meeting Monday at the Jesse Owens Museum. Also attending were members of the Lawrence County Commission. At the meeting, Nancy Pinion read the proclamation while Letson, left, and James Pinion look on. The designation clears the way for signs about the museum to be put on I-65 at that exit.