

Jesse Owens Museum Dedication Speech.

By
Gloria Hemphill

Good afternoon! I bring you greetings on behalf of my mother, sisters, our husbands, the grandchildren and great grandchildren. Although none of us were born in Oakville or Lawrence County, we hope that you will accept us as members of this wonderful community.

The family of Jesse Owens wishes to thank Therman White for his vision when he purchased the land for the park and asked James Pinion for his leadership in developing their vision. Our family feels this museum is the celebration of a champion who was a master of the spirit as well as the mechanics of the sport. He showed extraordinary love for this family and friends. His achievements have shown us all the promise of America. His faith in America inspired countless others to do their best for themselves and their country.

We hope that you and your families, friends and neighbors will come to the park and museum often to laugh, play, learn and enjoy life in this great country of ours.