

Nine years ago, here in rural Lawrence County, a dream was born. The dream was to take 17.5 acres of land that had just been purchased, and develop a living memorial to Jesse Owens at his birthplace.. The dreamers wanted to honor and perpetuate the memory of Owens athletic and humanitarian achievements.

This museum dedication ceremony today marks the accomplishment of that dream. However, when dreams are accomplished, other dreams fill their place. And that dream is to complete the Park by building an Olympic size track. We have confidence that given time and effort, that too will become a reality. The park now consists of 30 acres. More dreams will be born and more races run to accomplish future dreams.

The many individuals who assisted in fulfilling the dreams thus far are all winners and today we are all proud.

- We are proud..that Jesse Owens was born in Oakville, Law. Co. AL
- We are proud...that through this effort we have had the privilege to come to know the Jesse Owens Family.
- We are proud... that the family is with us today to share our joy in opening this museum.

And lastly, to use words similar to those of the late Martin Luther King.... We are proud... that we can finally say.... Home at Last... Home at Last.... Thank God Almighty..... Jesse Owens is Back Home at Last!!!!

James Senior