

1 HJR126
2 116615-1
3 By Representatives Grantland and Letson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-JAN-10

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8 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER
9 AND LIFE OF NATIVE ALABAMIAN AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, JAMES
10 CLEVELAND "JESSE" OWENS, BY DESIGNATING A PORTION OF HIGHWAY
11 36 IN MORGAN COUNTY AS THE "THE JESSE OWENS PARKWAY."
12

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

17 WHEREAS, a native son, born September 12, 1913, in
18 Oakville, Lawrence County, Alabama, Jesse Owens was a 1936
19 Olympic medalist, the recipient of four gold medals at the
20 games held in Nazi Germany, one each in the 100 meters, the
21 200 meters, the long jump, and as part of the 4x100 meter
22 relay team, an extraordinary athletic accomplishment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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