

## AMERICA THE GREATEST®

America is the greatest nation in the world because she has allowed her citizens the opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness." Citizens such as  
**JESSE OWENS.**

**Born:** September 12, 1913 (Virgo),  
one of seven children in  
Northern Alabama.

**Died:** March 31, 1980

**Father:** Henry Owens,  
tenant farmer.

**Mother:** Emma (Alexander) Owens.

**Education:** Ohio State University.

**Accomplishment:** Olympic athlete.



**JESSE OWENS**

Jesse Owens was born the son of a poor tenant farmer in Northern Alabama. As a youngster he picked cotton. The family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where at Fairview Junior High School, coach Charles Riley noticed what a superb natural track star Owens was; he spent endless time working with Jesse, developing his talent. Riley continued this coaching at East Technical High School where Owens broke all high school records in the 100 yard dash, 200 yard dash, and broad jump. Under coach Larry Snyder at Ohio State University, all collegiate records fell.

During the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Adolph Hitler sadly watched his myth of Aryan supremacy marred, when American black athlete Jesse Owens captured four Olympic Gold Medals. He tied one Olympic world record of 10.3 seconds in the 100-meter sprint, and set three new Olympic world records: 20.3 seconds in the 200-meter sprint, 39.8 seconds anchoring the 400-meter relay team, and 26 feet, 5-5/16 inches in the running broad jump. Since the 1936 Olympics, most of Owen's time has been in public relations, and in organizing youth athletic programs toward the goal of reducing juvenile delinquency and developing juvenile decency.

A nation is as great as the sum total of the greatness of its individuals. America offers her people more opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness" than any other nation on earth. I challenge you to develop yours!

Today we honor **JESSE OWENS**. Tomorrow could we honor you?

*Dr. Michael R. Loss.*

**DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS**

President, America The Greatest, Inc.®