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Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13524
Folder ID Number: 13524-015

Folder Title:
Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to Jesse Owens 3/28/90 [OA 4727]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	2	2

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 28, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
TO JESSE OWENS

Roosevelt Room

11:50 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this is so nice. And I was just telling Mrs. Owens I'm sorry Barbara is not here and that we view this as a very special occasion. But to Congressman Stokes and Senator Metzenbaum, and then friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens, welcome all of you to the White House.

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the White House to honor a man who really honored his own nation. Olympic hero and an American hero every day of his life. Jesse Owens was born with the gift of burning speed, and he took that God-given talent and developed it through years of training. And he was always the fastest. One afternoon in 1935 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, he set three world records and tied a fourth all in 45 minutes. You talk about a young guy in a hurry -- well, I think maybe that was -- (laughter) -- he was the epitome of that.

Eighteen years old -- as an 18-year-old in 1933, he won the City of Cleveland championship, the 100-yard dash in 9.4, tying the world record while still in high school. He burst on to the world scene in 1936, and I think every American that studies history remembers this -- the 1936 Olympics. Hitler's Olympic games. The last Olympics before the outbreak of the Second World War. And the Berlin Games were to be the showcase of Hitler's theories on the superiority of the master race until this 23-year-old kid named Jesse Owens dashed to victory in the 100-, the 200-, and the 400-meter relay. It was an unrivaled athletic triumph. But more than that, it really was a triumph for all humanity.

And Jesse Owens returned to this nation a hero, a household name, billed as "the fastest man on Earth." But it's what he did after the spectacular performance of the Berlin Games that earned him the enduring gratitude of all Americans. Jesse dedicated himself to upholding the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship, and the American ideals of fair play, hard work, and open competition.

And I know that his friend and fellow Clevelander, Harrison Dillard -- now, which is Harrison? Right here, right behind you -- Harrison Dillard, right here, today -- in 1941, at the Ohio State High School Track Championship, Harrison's idol, Jesse Owens -- you correct me if I'm wrong, now -- gave him a new pair of track shoes. And that day, Harrison Dillard won two state titles in those new shoes. And seven years later, as we all remember, he brought home the gold medal at the 1948 Olympics in Jesse's event, that 100-meter dash -- in the first games held since those Berlin Games.

Jesse's example and influence extended to Olympians like Harrison Dillard, and to all other athletes across the country. And he became a Special Ambassador for Sports, a man who taught the ideals that I just mentioned were the key to success not just on the athletic field, but in the game of life. And that legacy lives today through the Jesse Owens Games, a playground Olympics open to kids from eight to 15 years old all across our country; through the Jesse Owens International Trophy Award, presented each year to the best amateur athlete in America; and, of course, through the foundation,

MORE

the Jesse Owens Foundation which enables talented young people who can't afford college to fulfill that dream and get a degree.

And I know it's a point of pride to Ruth Owens that the Jesse Owens scholarships are awarded without regard to race, creed or color. And it's that legacy that we celebrate here today. And we remember Jesse Owens not only as the first athlete in Olympic history to win four gold medals; today, 10 years since the passing of this great hero, it's my honor to add to Jesse Owens' collection a fifth gold medal. This one, as Ruth Owens said on Capitol Hill, for his humanitarian contributions in the race of life.

Mrs. Owens, it is with great pride and in honor of your late husband and his lasting achievements that I present to you this Congressional Gold Medal -- the Jesse Owens Congressional Gold Medal. And we're just delighted you came here to receive it. (Applause.)

MRS. OWENS: Mr. President, thank you so very much for this honor. Like your predecessors, President Ford, President Carter, who have recognized Jesse for his many contributions. Jesse achieved the unique distinction of being a legend in his own time. Despite the many honors, his greatest satisfaction came from his work with youth. Jesse's work with youth is now carried on through, as you mentioned, the Jesse Owens Foundation, the ARCO Jesse Owens Games, and the International Amateur Athletic Association, spearheaded by Herb Douglas.

On behalf of the youth he still inspires, and on behalf of my family, we thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:57 A.M. EST

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END

11:57 A.M. EST

**JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION / ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990 / 11:30 AM**

**MRS. OWENS. CONGRESSMAN STOKES. SENATOR
METZENBAUM. FRIENDS AND TEAMMATES OF THE LEGENDARY
JESSE OWENS. WELCOME, ALL OF YOU. //**

**IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU HERE TO THE WHITE
HOUSE, TO HONOR A MAN WHO HONORED THIS NATION -- AS AN
OLYMPIC HERO, AND AN AMERICAN HERO, EVERY DAY OF HIS
LIFE. //**

- 2 -

**JESSE OWENS WAS BORN WITH THE GIFT OF BURNING
SPEED. HE TOOK THAT GOD-GIVEN TALENT, AND DEVELOPED IT
-- THROUGH YEARS OF TRAINING. // HE WAS ALWAYS THE
FASTEST. ON ONE AFTERNOON IN 1935 IN ANN ARBOR,
MICHIGAN, JESSE OWENS SET 3 WORLD RECORDS AND TIED A
FOURTH // ALL IN 45 MINUTES. // [[TALK ABOUT A YOUNG
MAN IN A HURRY....]]**

AND AS AN 18-YEAR-OLD IN 1933, HE WON THE CITY OF CLEVELAND CHAMPIONSHIP 100 YARD DASH -- IN 9.4 SECONDS -- // TYING THE WORLD RECORD WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. //

JESSE OWENS BURST ONTO THE WORLD SCENE IN 1936. THE BERLIN OLYMPICS -- HITLER'S OLYMPIC GAMES, THE LAST OLYMPICS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE BERLIN GAMES WERE TO BE THE SHOWCASE OF HITLER'S THEORIES ON THE SUPERIORITY OF THE MASTER RACE -- UNTIL A 23-YEAR-OLD NAMED JESSE OWENS DASHED TO VICTORY IN THE 100, THE 200 AND THE 400 METER RELAY. // IT WAS AN UNRIVALED ATHLETIC TRIUMPH -- BUT MORE THAN THAT: IT WAS A TRIUMPH FOR ALL HUMANITY. //

JESSE OWENS RETURNED TO THIS NATION A HERO. A HOUSEHOLD NAME -- THE FASTEST MAN ON EARTH. //

BUT IT'S WHAT HE DID AFTER THE SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE AT THE BERLIN GAMES THAT EARNED HIM THE ENDURING GRATITUDE OF ALL AMERICANS. JESSE OWENS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO UPHOLDING THE OLYMPIC IDEAL OF SPORTSMANSHIP -- AND THE AMERICAN IDEALS OF FAIR PLAY, HARD WORK AND OPEN COMPETITION. //

[[I KNOW JESSE'S FRIEND AND FELLOW CLEVELANDER HARRISON DILLARD IS HERE TODAY. IN 1941, AT THE OHIO STATE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP, HARRISON'S IDOL, JESSE OWENS, GAVE HIM A NEW PAIR OF TRACK SHOES.

THAT DAY, HARRISON DILLARD WON TWO STATE TITLES IN THOSE NEW SHOES. 7 YEARS LATER, HE BROUGHT HOME THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE 1948 OLYMPICS -- IN JESSE'S EVENT, THE 100 METER DASH -- IN THE FIRST GAMES SINCE BERLIN.]]

JESSE'S EXAMPLE AND INFLUENCE EXTENDED TO OLYMPIANS LIKE HARRISON DILLARD -- AND TO ALL OTHER ATHLETES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. //

HE BECAME A SPECIAL AMBASSADOR FOR SPORTS -- A MAN WHO TAUGHT THAT THE IDEALS I JUST MENTIONED WERE THE KEY TO SUCCESS NOT JUST ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD -- BUT IN THE GAME OF LIFE. //

AND THAT LEGACY LIVES TODAY. THROUGH THE JESSE OWENS GAMES -- A "PLAYGROUND OLYMPICS" OPEN TO KIDS FROM 8 TO 15 YEARS OLD ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THROUGH THE JESSE OWENS INTERNATIONAL TROPHY AWARD, PRESENTED EACH YEAR TO THE BEST AMATEUR ATHLETE IN AMERICA. //

AND OF COURSE, THROUGH THE JESSE OWENS FOUNDATION, WHICH ENABLES TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAN'T AFFORD COLLEGE TO FULFILL THAT DREAM AND GET THAT DEGREE. AND I KNOW IT IS A POINT OF PRIDE TO RUTH OWENS THAT THE JESSE OWENS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, CREED, OR COLOR. //

IT'S THAT LEGACY WE CELEBRATE TODAY. WE REMEMBER JESSE OWENS NOT ONLY AS THE FIRST ATHLETE IN OLYMPIC HISTORY TO WIN FOUR GOLD MEDALS. //

TODAY -- 10 YEARS SINCE THE PASSING OF THIS GREAT HERO -- IT'S MY HONOR TO ADD TO JESSE OWENS' COLLECTION A 5TH GOLD MEDAL. THIS ONE -- AS RUTH OWENS SAID ON CAPITOL HILL -- "FOR HIS HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE RACE OF LIFE." //

MRS. OWENS, IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT -- IN HONOR OF YOUR LATE HUSBAND AND HIS LASTING ACHIEVEMENTS -- I PRESENT TO YOU THE JESSE OWENS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

#



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 03/23/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
(03/23 9:45 a.m. draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

90 MAR 26 9:04

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1990

1990 MAR 23 AM 9:51

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DMcG*

SUBJECT: JESSE OWENS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

I. SUMMARY

On March 28 at 11:30 a.m., you will award a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to Olympic great Jesse Owens, in the Roosevelt Room. Owens' wife, Mrs. Ruth Owens, will accept the medal. Family, friends and teammates of Jesse Owens will be on hand, as will Congressman Louis Stokes, a key sponsor of this Congressional award.

II. DISCUSSION

These remarks focus not only on Jesse Owens' athletic achievements, but on his lifelong contributions to others -- and above all to America's young people. Harrison Dillard, referred to in the remarks, is a former Olympian, protege and friend of Owens.

#

McGroarty/Dooley
March 23, 1990
9:45 a.m.
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990
xx:00 AM

Mrs. Owens. [Introductory acknowledgements.] Congressman Stokes. Friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens. Welcome, all of you. //

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the White House, to honor a man who honored this Nation -- as an Olympic hero, and an American hero, every day of his life. //

Jesse Owens was born with the gift of burning speed. He took that God-given talent, and developed it -- through years of training. // He was always the fastest. On one afternoon in 1935 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens set 3 world records and tied a fourth // all in 45 minutes. // [[Talk about a young man in a hurry....]]

And as an 18-year-old in 1933, he won the City of Cleveland Championship 100 yard dash -- in 9.4 seconds -- // tying the world record while still in high school. //

Jesse Owens burst onto the world scene in 1936. The Berlin Olympics -- Hitler's Olympic Games, the last Olympics before the outbreak of the Second World War. The Berlin Games were to be the showcase of Hitler's theories on the superiority of the Master Race -- until a 24-year-old named Jesse Owens dashed to

victory in the 100, the 200 and the 400 meter relay -- and sent Hitler storming from the stadium. // It was an unrivaled athletic triumph -- but more than that: it was a triumph for all humanity. //

Jesse Owens returned to this nation a hero. A household name -- the fastest man on earth. // But it's what he did after the spectacular performance at the Berlin games that earned him the enduring gratitude of all Americans. Jesse Owens dedicated himself to upholding the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship -- and the American ideals of fair play, hard work and open competition. //

[[I know Jesse's friend and fellow Clevelander Harrison Dillard is here today. In 1941, at the Ohio State High School Track Championship, Harrison's idol, Jesse Owens, gave him a new pair of track shoes. That day, Harrison Dillard won two state titles in those new shoes. 7 years later, he brought home the Gold Medal at the 1948 Olympics -- in Jesse's event, the 100 meter dash -- in the first Games since Berlin.]]

Jesse's example and influence extended to Olympians like Harrison Dillard -- and to all other athletes across the United States. // He became a special ambassador for sports -- a man who taught that ideals I just mentioned were the key to success not just on the athletic field -- but in the game of life. //

And that legacy lives today. Through the Jesse Owens Games -- a "playground Olympics" open to kids from 8 to 15 years old all across the country. Through the Jesse Owens International

Trophy Award, presented each year to the best amateur athlete in America. // -And of course, through the Jesse Owens Foundation, which enables talented young people who can't afford college to fulfill that dream and get that degree. And I know it is a point of pride to Ruth Owens that the Jesse Owens Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, creed, or color. //

It's that legacy we celebrate today. We remember Jesse Owens not only as the first athlete in Olympic history to win four gold medals. // Today -- 10 years since the passing of this great hero -- it's my honor to add to Jesse Owens' collection a 5th Gold Medal. This one -- as Ruth Owens said on Capitol Hill -- "for his humanitarian contributions in the race of life." //

Mrs. Owens, it is with great pride that -- in honor of your late husband and his lasting achievements -- I present to you the Jesse Owens Congressional Gold Medal.

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Check Hitler reference

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March 23, 1990
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And that legacy lives today. Through the Jesse Owens Games -- a "playground Olympics" open to kids from 8 to 15 years old all across the country. Through the Jesse Owens International

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
3/26/90
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1990

OK
1 fact to check
1990 MAR 23 11 9:51

INFORMATION

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30 MAR 26 49:03

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March 23, 1990
9:45 a.m.
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990
~~XX:00 AM~~
11:30

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Stokes. Friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens.
Metzenbaum
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X
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is that
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testimony

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50 MAR 22 49:45

DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 22, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *Comments attached 3-22-90*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 MAR 21 PM 1:07

McGroarty/Dooley
March 21, 1990
1:00 pm
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990
xx:00 AM

Mrs. Owens. [Introductory acknowledgements.] Congressman
Family,
Stokes. Friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens. ✓
Welcome, all of you. //

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the White House, to
honor a man who honored this Nation -- as an **Olympic hero**, and an
American hero, every day of his life. //

Jesse Owens was born with the gift of burning speed. He
took that God-given talent, and developed it -- through years of
training. // He was always the fastest. On one afternoon in
1935 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens set 3 world records and
tied a fourth // all in 45 minutes. // [[Talk about a young
man in a hurry....]]

And as an 18-year-old in 1933, he won the City of Cleveland
Championship 100 yard dash -- in **9.4 seconds** -- // **tying the**
world record while still in high school. // ?

Jesse Owens burst onto the world scene in 1936. The Berlin
Olympics -- Hitler's Olympic Games, the last Olympics before the
outbreak of the Second World War. The Berlin Games were to be
the showcase of Hitler's theories on the superiority of the
Master Race -- until a 24-year-old named Jesse Owens dashed to

*We did not
confirm all
these figures
ok?*

victory in the 100, the 200 and the 400 meter relay -- and sent Hitler storming from the stadium. // It was an unrivaled **athletic triumph** -- but more than that: it was **a triumph for all humanity.** //

Jesse Owens returned to this nation a hero. A household name -- the fastest man on earth. // But it's what he did **after** the spectacular performance at the Berlin games that earned him enduring gratitude of **all** Americans. Jesse Owens dedicated himself to upholding the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship -- and American ideals of fair play, hard work and open competition. //

We have spoken to Dillard + he will attend.
- [Signature]

Dillard will be able to attend. Another teammate has accepted. Call Michael Jackson for most current list of attendees. (x2800)

I know Jesse's friend and fellow Clevelander Harrison Dillard is here today. In 1941, at the Ohio State High School Track Championship, Harrison's idol, Jesse Owens, gave him a new pair of track shoes. That day, Harrison Dillard won two state titles in those new shoes. 7 years later, he brought home the Gold Medal at the 1948 Olympics -- in Jesse's event, the 100 meter dash -- in the first Games since Berlin.]]

Jesse's example and influence extended to Olympians like Harrison Dillard -- and to all other athletes across the United States. // He became a special ambassador for sports -- a man who taught that ideals I just mentioned were the key to success **not just on the athletic field -- but in the game of life.** //

And that legacy lives today. Through the Jesse Owens Games -- a "playground Olympics" open to kids from 8 to 15 years old all across the country. Through the Jesse Owens International

Trophy Award, presented each year to the best amateur athlete in America. // And of course, through the Jesse Owens Foundation, which enables talented young people who can't afford college to fulfill that dream and get that degree. And I know it is a point of pride to Ruth Owens that the Jesse Owens Scholarships are awarded **without regard to race, creed, or color.** //

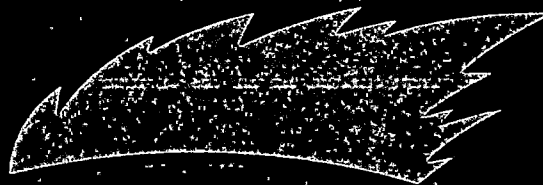
It's that legacy we celebrate today. We remember Jesse Owens **not only** as the first athlete in Olympic history to win four gold medals. // Today -- 10 years since the passing of this great hero -- it's my honor to add to Jesse Owens' collection a **5th Gold Medal**. This one -- as Ruth Owens said on Capitol Hill -- "**for his humanitarian contributions in the race of life.**" //

Mrs. Owens, it is with great pride that -- in honor of your late husband and his lasting achievements -- I present to you the Jesse Owens Congressional Gold Medal.

#

DAVID WALLECHINSKY

COAUTHOR OF *THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC* AND *THE BOOK OF 1001*



THE
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in the following year Owens lost three times to the great Alabama-born sprinter Eulace Peacock. And it wasn't until one week before the Olympic trials that Jesse was able to defeat Ralph Metcalfe. But he peaked when he needed to, winning the 100, 200, and long jump at the trials, and he went to Berlin as the favorite in all three events.

Owens had little trouble living up to expectations. In the first round of the 100 meters he tied the Olympic record of 10.3. In the second round he ran a wind-aided 10.2. Jesse took it easy in the semifinals, winning his heat in 10.4 while Metcalfe won the other in 10.5. The final saw Owens take the lead from the first stride and pull out to a five-foot lead by the halfway mark. As usual Metcalfe started slowly and came on strong in the last 25 meters. He closed the gap, but was still a yard back when Owens broke the tape. Metcalfe, who was elected to the U.S. Congress 34 years later, picked up his second straight 100 meters silver medal, while Osendarp became the first Dutchman to win an individual track and field medal. Strandberg appeared to be a sure medalist, but he strained a tendon at the 80-meter mark and limped home in last place. Before the week was out, Jesse Owens had earned three more gold medals.

Nazi propaganda had portrayed Negroes as inferior, taunting the United States for relying on "black auxiliaries." Evidently, though, the message had little effect on the German masses, who considered Owens the hero of Berlin. Everywhere he went around town he was mobbed by fans seeking his autograph or photograph. They even shoved autograph books through his bedroom window in the Olympic Village while he tried to sleep.

Jesse Owens was born September 12, 1913, in Danville, Alabama, the son of sharecroppers and the grandson of slaves. By the age of 7 he was expected to pick 100 pounds of cotton a day. When he was 9 his family moved north to Cleveland, where Jesse pumped gas and delivered groceries. After he set national high school records in the broad jump, the 100-yard dash, and the 220, he was recruited by 28 colleges, but chose to stay close to home at Ohio State. While a student there he worked as an elevator operator and, later, as a page in the state legislature. There is a famous myth that after Jesse won the 100 meters in Berlin he was snubbed by Adolf Hitler, who refused to meet Owens after he had personally congratulated three earlier gold medal winners. Actually, if such a snub did occur, the recipient was not Jesse Owens, but Cornelius Johnson and David Albritton, black Americans who had finished one-two in the high jump the previous day.

Owens was snubbed by a different world leader—Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Although Jesse received tickertape parades in New York City and Cleveland, the President not only failed to invite him to the White House, he never even sent a letter of congratulations. Owens was also snubbed by the Amateur Athletic Union, which suspended him for refusing to run in a Swedish meet which he had never agreed to enter. The A.A.U. also bypassed him for the Sullivan award, which was presented to the best U.S.

amateur athlete of the year. In 1935, the year that Jesse Owens set six world records, the award was given to a golfer named Lawson Little. In 1936, the year of Owens' four gold medals, the award went to Glenn Morris, the Olympic decathlon champion.

After the Olympics Jesse worked as a paid campaigner for presidential candidate Alf Landon. When Landon lost to Roosevelt in a landslide, Jesse took a \$130 a month job as a playground instructor in Cleveland. In an attempt to make ends meet, the hero of Berlin, "The Ebony Antelope," allowed promoters to stage exhibitions in which he raced against horses, dogs, and motorcycles. Tiring of this, he returned to his job as a playground instructor. Then he lent his name to a chain of cleaning stores which went bankrupt, leaving Jesse \$114,000 in debt. In the 1950s he finally achieved financial security when he opened a public relations firm and became a public speaker on behalf of various corporate sponsors. He developed a repertoire of five basic speeches including ones on religion, patriotism, and marketing for salesmen. In the words of writer William Oscar Johnson, Jesse Owens had become "a professional good example."

In 1968 Owens took the side of the U.S. Olympic Committee in its struggle with militant black athletes and two years later he wrote a book called *Blackthink*, which criticized racial militancy. However in 1972 he published another book, *I Have Changed*, retracting his earlier criticisms. After 35 years of pack-a-day cigarette smoking, Jesse Owens died of lung cancer in Tucson, Arizona, on March 31, 1980. Would-be Olympic sprint champions might be interested to know the secret of his success. In 1936 he told one London reporter, "I let my feet spend as little time on the ground as possible. From the air, fast down, and from the ground, fast up. My foot is only a fraction of the time on the track."

1948 London C: 66, N: 34, D: 7.31. WR: 10.2 (Charles Paddock, Ralph Metcalfe, Jesse Owens, Harold Davis, Lloyd LaBeach, H. Norwood "Barney" Ewell)

1. Harrison Dillard	USA	10.3 EOR
2. H. Norwood "Barney" Ewell	USA	10.4
3. Lloyd LaBeach	PAN	10.4
4. Alistair McCorquodale	GBR	10.4
5. Melvin Patton	USA	10.5
6. Emmanuel McDonald Bailey	GBR	10.6

Harrison Dillard was a 13-year-old schoolboy in Cleveland when he attended the huge parade in 1936 in honor of Jesse Owens. Later he met Owens, who took a liking to the young man and presented him with the running shoes he had used to win his gold medals. Dillard did an outstanding job of literally filling those shoes. By 1952 he had matched his hero's total of four Olympic victories. From May 31, 1947, through June 26, 1948, "Bones" Dillard, running mostly the hurdles, ran up an unprecedented string of 82 consecutive victories. The streak finally came to an end at the A.A.U. meet in Milwaukee when he tried

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 MAR 21 PM 1:07

McGroarty/Dooley
March 21, 1990
1:00 pm
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990
xx:00 AM

Mrs. Owens. [Introductory acknowledgements.] Congressman Stokes. Friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens. Welcome, all of you. //

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the White House, to honor a man who honored this Nation -- as an **Olympic hero**, and an **American hero**, every day of his life. //

Jesse Owens was born with the gift of burning speed. He took that God-given talent, and developed it -- through years of training. // He was always the fastest. On one afternoon in 1935 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens **set 3 world records and tied a fourth // all in 45 minutes.** // [[Talk about a young man in a hurry....]]

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victory in the 100, the 200 and the 400 meter relay -- and sent Hitler storming from the stadium. // It was an unrivaled **athletic triumph** -- but more than that: it was a **triumph for all humanity.** //

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Jesse's example and influence extended to Olympians like Harrison Dillard -- and to all other athletes across the United States. // He became a special ambassador for sports -- a man who taught that ideals I just mentioned were the key to success **not just on the athletic field -- but in the game of life.** //

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Jesse Owens Gold Medal
Presentation

The draft remarks are fine. We have no comment from a
policy standpoint.

cc: James W. Cicconi

00 MAR 22 4:16

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

91:4 P4:16 90 MAR 22

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 MAR 21 PM 1:07

McGroarty/Dooley
March 21, 1990
1:00 pm
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
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MARCH 28, 1990
xx:00 AM

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DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

No Comments

3/22/90

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

2202

DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSE:

TO: CHRISS WINSTON March 21, 1990

NSC concurs with the Presidential remarks for the Jesse Owens Gold Medal Presentation.

SO MAR 21 12 44 PM '90
B. Bates

Brent Scowcroft

cc: James W. Cicconi

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702



90 MAR 21 P 1: 57

PH: 89 1511

[Faint handwritten text]

1990 MAR 21 PM 1:07

McGroarty/Dooley
March 21, 1990
1:00 pm
[OWENS]

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#



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

TIME STAMP

90 MAR 21 P 1: 57

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 2202

ACTION OFFICER: RODMAN

DUE: 12:00PM, 21 MAR

Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Gates

Appropriate Action

Prepare Memo For Cicconi

Prepare Memo for Hughes

Prepare Memo SCOWCROFT

to WINSTON W/ INFO CICCONI

URGENT

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. 6907

- FYI
- Basora
 - Beers
 - Blackwill
 - Charles
 - Coulson
 - Davis
 - Deal
 - Dorminey
 - Dyke
 - Gordon
 - Grimes
 - Haass
 - Hayden
 - Hutchings
 - Jackson
 - Kanter
 - Kitchen
 - LaMagna

- FYI
- Lampley
 - Levin
 - Mahley
 - Mandel
 - Melby
 - Menan
 - Merchant
 - Miller
 - Needels
 - Paal
 - Pacelli
 - Passage
 - Pilling
 - Popadiuk
 - Pryce
 - Rademaker
 - Rice
 - Rodman

- FYI
- Rostow
 - Salvetti
 - Tilley
 - Tobey
 - Van Eron
 - Watson
 - Welch
 - Whitley
 - Wilson
 - Working
 - Zelikow
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

INFORMATION Hughes
 Scowcroft (advance)

Sittmann
 Gates (advance)

Exec. Sec. Desk
 Secretariat

COMMENTS

Logged By AC

Return to Secretariat

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/21/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3/22/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 22, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*OK s.h.
V. good*

90 MAR 21 PM 3:01

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1990 MAR 21 PM 1:07

McGroarty/Dooley
March 21, 1990
1:00 pm
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
MARCH 28, 1990
xx:00 AM

Mrs. Owens. [Introductory acknowledgements.] Congressman Stokes. Friends and teammates of the legendary Jesse Owens. Welcome, all of you. //

It's my pleasure to welcome you here to the White House, to honor a man who honored this Nation -- as an **Olympic hero**, and an **American hero**, every day of his life. //

Jesse Owens was born with the gift of burning speed. He took that God-given talent, and developed it -- through years of training. // He was always the fastest. On one afternoon in 1935 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jesse Owens **set 3 world records and tied a fourth // all in 45 minutes.** // [[Talk about a young man in a hurry....]]

And as an 18-year-old in 1933, he won the City of Cleveland Championship 100 yard dash -- in **9.4 seconds** -- // **tying the world record while still in high school.** //

Jesse Owens burst onto the world scene in 1936. The Berlin Olympics -- Hitler's Olympic Games, the last Olympics before the outbreak of the Second World War. The Berlin Games were to be the showcase of Hitler's theories on the superiority of the Master Race -- until a 24-year-old named Jesse Owens dashed to

victory in the 100, the 200 and the 400 meter relay -- and sent Hitler storming from the stadium. // It was an unrivaled **athletic triumph** -- but more than that: it was a **triumph for all humanity.** //

Jesse Owens returned to this nation a hero. A household name -- the fastest man on earth. // But it's what he did **after** the spectacular performance at the Berlin games that earned him the enduring gratitude of all Americans. Jesse Owens dedicated himself to upholding the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship -- and the American ideals of fair play, hard work and open **competition.** //

[[I know Jesse's friend and fellow Clevelander Harrison Dillard is here today. In 1941, at the Ohio State High School Track Championship, Harrison's idol, Jesse Owens, gave him a new pair of track shoes. That day, Harrison Dillard won two state titles in those new shoes. 7 years later, he brought home the Gold Medal at the 1948 Olympics -- in Jesse's event, the 100 meter dash -- in the first Games since Berlin.]]

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
3/26/90
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1990 MAR 23 AM 9:51
OK
1 fact to check

March 22, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *aw*

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY *DMA*

SUBJECT: JESSE OWENS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION

I. SUMMARY

On March 28 at 11:30 a.m., you will award a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to Olympic great Jesse Owens, in the Roosevelt Room. Owens' wife, Mrs. Ruth Owens, will accept the medal. Family, friends and teammates of Jesse Owens will be on hand, as will Congressman Louis Stokes, a key sponsor of this Congressional award.

II. DISCUSSION

These remarks focus not only on Jesse Owens' athletic achievements, but on his lifelong contributions to others -- and above all to America's young people. Harrison Dillard, referred to in the remarks, is a former Olympian, protege and friend of Owens.

#

90 MAR 26 4:03

McGroarty/Dooley
March 23, 1990
9:45 a.m.
[OWENS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JESSE OWENS GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM
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is that true??

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