



*IN RECOGNITION OF  
OLYMPIC MEDALIST  
AND TRACK AND FIELD SPORTS ICON*



**THE RALPH H. BOSTON  
WELLNESS CENTER  
DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007  
NOON**

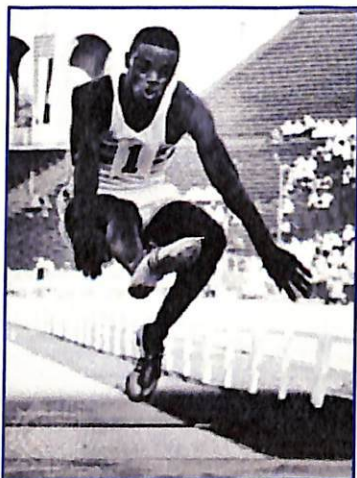
ABOUT  
RALPH H. BOSTON

A track star and medalist in the 1960, 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games, Ralph H. Boston was born in Laurel, Miss. He gained national and worldwide acclaim while at Tennessee State University for his athletic prowess in the Olympic long jump.



Boston entered Tennessee State University in 1960 and won the national collegiate long jump title his first year of college. Named to the United States Olympic Team of 1960, he broke the long jump world record held by Jesse Owens for 25 years. In a pre-Olympic competition, Boston had a jump of 26 feet, 11-1/4 inches. He then won the gold medal at that summer's Olympic Games. He was the first person to long jump more than 27 feet and his last world record jump—27 feet, five inches—came in 1965. Boston was a silver medalist in the long jump at the 1964 Olympic Games and won a bronze medal in the same competition in the 1968 Olympic Games.

From 1961 to 1966, he was the Amateur Athletic Association (AAU) long jump champion. After the 1968 track season, Boston retired from competition and entered college administration at the University of Tennessee. Later he served as an expert commentator for television coverage of track and field events. He was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974 and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1985.



Boston resides in Atlanta, Ga., and is an active member of the Alumni Association of his alma mater, Tennessee State University.

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremonies

**Ms. Teresa Phillips**  
*Director of Athletics*  
Tennessee State University

Welcome	Ms. Teresa Phillips
Invocation	Ms. Chandra Cheeseborough
Occasion	President Melvin N. Johnson
Litany	President Melvin N. Johnson
Ribbon Cutting	President Melvin N. Johnson Mr. Ralph H. Boston
Remarks	Mr. Ralph H. Boston

*\*Photos and reception immediately following.*

## LITANY

**President:** We present the Ralph H. Boston Wellness Center to be dedicated to the physical and mental well-being of the students, faculty, staff and athletes of Tennessee State University. The dedication today is in honor of Mr. Ralph H. Boston, Olympic gold medalist, alumnus and dedicated supporter of Tennessee State University.

It is timely and appropriate that this facility be set apart to honor this distinguished gentleman.

**People:** We dedicate this facility.

**President:** To the family and friends of Ralph H. Boston; to the community in which he competed and, to the countless hours of physical and mental improvement that will occur in this facility;

**People:** We dedicate this facility.

**President:** For the joy this facility brings when the challenge of better health, longer life and spiritual well-being are so enhanced;

**People:** We dedicate this facility.

**President:** We know that students and faculty will enter these doors to find opportunities for interaction; the true meaning to the exercise of body and mind; and high measures of success;

**People:** We dedicate this facility.

**President:** On this day, we acknowledge this facility, the contributions of an Olympic champion, and the continued positive health benefits on the lives of those that use its resources and services.

**ALL:** We dedicate this facility.