

Spring 2011

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

Polar Plunge Pictorial



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Cover Photo: In 2011, Wyoming held eight different "Jackalope Jumps" (four of which were organized by Law Enforcement) raising over \$77,000!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

Welcome to another outstanding issue of the Guardian Newsletter. Over the past 10 years, our movement has experienced unsurpassed growth and 2011 seems to be shaping up to be another year to remember. Not only are we celebrating our 30th anniversary, but the Executive Council has been working diligently to bring new resources, opportunities and initiatives to our movement, designed to further secure our future.

The LETR family is excited to welcome Officer Derek Poundstone, America's Strongest Man, as a Torch Run Global Ambassador. Derek has very much embraced our cause and looks forward to growing his involvement. The Executive Council has embarked on developing a strategic plan to guide us into the future and the Marketing and Development Committee is working with SOI on a new initiative to assess and maximize our branding and marketing efforts.

These are just a few of the activities we continue to work on to support our programs worldwide. Another initiative you will hear more about in this newsletter and throughout the year to come is the "Just One More" campaign. Introduced at the Long Beach Conference, the Executive Council has partnered with Commander Laura Molinaro, Torch Runner from Arizona, to spread the message that has served us so well for 30 years. Our movement will flourish and our athletes thrive if we all just think about bringing one more volunteer to the table, raising one more dollar, or producing one more event, and Commander Molinaro is poised to lead that charge for us.



TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SARGENT "SARGE" SHRIVER JR.

By Brady Lum, President and Chief Operating Officer
Special Olympics International

On January 18, 2011, Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run family suffered a great loss with the death of Sargent Shriver. However, condolences and tributes from around the world reminded us of his outstanding contributions and helped ease the pain. Below is a note from Brady Lum, President and Chief Operating Officer of Special Olympics International. You may also visit the Special Olympics International tribute at http://www.specialolympics.org/sargent_shriver.aspx.

Dear Special Olympics Family,

It is with great sadness that I report that Robert Sargent "Sarge" Shriver Jr. passed away earlier today. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tim, Linda and the extended Shriver family at this difficult time.

Mr. Shriver, husband to our founder, the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was Chairman of the Board Emeritus for Special Olympics and served as president of the Special Olympics movement from 1984 through 1996. Sargent Shriver also served Special Olympics as Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1990 to 2003.

As an international advocate, Sargent Shriver compiled an unparalleled record of public service at every tier, from the local level to the world community. For Special Olympics, Sargent Shriver was a true leader for our Movement, helping us establish and build Programs in the far corners of the globe. He might be best known as an organizer of the Peace Corps, but to Special Olympics, he holds a cherished spot in our history and our hearts.

Today I ask you to please remember in your thoughts, the life of a man who saw the athletes of Special Olympics as ambassadors for peace; a man who was able

to transform the roots of violence and discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities by promoting Special Olympics throughout the world.

We will continue his legacy by providing opportunities for people and communities to unite in harmony through sport. His legacy continues in our new class of Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers (<http://www.specialolympics.org/2010-International-Global-Messengers-Bios.aspx>). These Special Olympics athletes from around the world will continue to share his message of peace and unity with the world.

Helpful materials to commemorate his life are available online here: http://www.specialolympics.org/SARGENT_SHRIVER_MEDIA_RESOURCES.aspx. Please check back at our Special Olympics Resources site soon as more materials become available: <http://resources.specialolympics.org/ResourcesDefault.aspx>.

I also encourage you to visit the Sargent Shriver Peace Institute's website at <http://www.sargentshriver.org> where you can read more about his life and impact on our movement.

Peace to Sarge and our prayers again for the whole Shriver family.

Flame of Hope Reaches Samoa

By Donna Lene



Cheers of joy and excitement were heard from Samoan Special Olympics athletes as the flame of hope is ignited for the first time on the beautiful tropical shores of Samoa.

Nestled in the middle of the wide blue Pacific are the tiny islands of Samoa with a population just below 200,000, Special Olympics Samoa established itself here in 2009. As a very new program with 15 registered athletes at the start of 2010, the thought of hosting a national event was a little daunting to the newly elected board members.

However, with the appointment of a part time National Director and some fantastic support from Special Olympics International, we decided to boldly proceed. Around April our registered athletes had increased to about 40 regulars, and we were having monthly competitions. It was around this time that the board decided it would be a great opportunity to visit Australia

and see how they organised their National games. Whilst our Sports Director, Tai Tauilili, was in Australia, he had the great fortune to meet Mr. Don Stuart, the Oceania Region Coordinator, who generously offered to help Samoa hold their first Law Enforcement Torch Run® alongside the first National Games for Samoa.

After visiting Samoa and making great connections with the Ministry of Police, Fire and Prisons and presenting the Police Commissioner with the actual torch to ignite the Flame of Hope, Don had put in place a strategy for us to follow and everyone was getting excited.

It was late August when we nervously bid farewell to Don and began our serious plans to utilize the Torch Run as an awareness campaign leading up to our opening ceremony. We decided to begin the run on the Monday four days before the opening ceremony on the following Friday. This would allow for the torch to circle the island of Savaii and then return to the main island Upolu and run through nearly all of the 330 villages. It is worth noting at this stage that we were anticipating close to 50 athletes to attend the games. These athletes would be in a three day camp to allow everyone to get to know each other through out the games. Little did we know at this stage the impact the Torch Run would have on Special Olympics Samoa.

The team to begin the first leg of the torch run was indeed impressive with close to 30 strong member contingent and 7 vehicles. They boarded the ferry for an hour long ride Sunday afternoon to prepare for the Torch Run early the next day. The response from the community was fantastic with schools and villages lining the main roads through every village. The policemen worked in close coordination with the disability service providers, Loto Taumafai and SENESE to ensure athletes and potential athletes had the opportunity to participate.



Mrs Donna Lene, SO Samoa Chairperson, Mr. Don Stuart, Oceania Regional Coordinator and Hon Matt Anderson Australian High Commissioner to Samoa share the pleasure of the Law Enforcement Torch's arrival in Samoa

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Through the awareness raised during the LETR, Samoa Special Olympics celebrated an incredible 134 athletes for the games and had over three hundred people in camp for 3 days. We blew our budget, but as Chairperson, I can't think of a better outcome. We now have a great relationship with the police and fire officers who took part in the program. They attend our regular monthly competitions and are dedicated 'fans' of Special Olympics Samoa.



Officers in Samoa's first ever Law Enforcement torch run prepare for an early morning start to beat the heat



The Samoan community's response was overwhelming and this was confirmed through a massive \$4,



Athletes and LETR members were honoured in all the villages they passed through.

SO Chinese Taipei Athlete Profile

林曉婕

Shiao-Jay Lin

第一次認識曉婕，是在1999年。當時，我才接觸特殊奧運 Special Olympics不久，經營永安電腦教育中心。
The first time I met Shiao-Jay was in 1999. At that time, I just learned of Special Olympics and I was running the Yun An computer center.

資源整合之下，陳美玲老師利用此場地，開辦了我們台灣第一次的「運動員領袖計劃」，運用一週的時間，設計許多活動讓特奧運動員們參與，以建立其自信、社交能力、發表能力，並製作個人檔案夾。

In order to integrate all the resources, Mrs. Chen, Mei-Lin used the computer center to hold Taiwan's "Athlete Leadership Program" the first time. A variety of activities were specifically designed for Special Olympics athletes to participate to build up their self-confidence, social abilities, presentation skills and their own personal profiles within one week.

那時，曉婕是海山高工特教班資料處理科的學生，從事電腦教學工作的我，很驚訝地發現——特教班的孩子，可以學習電腦打字(Keying)，還可以將文書處理工作做得這麼好！曉婕為自己建立一本個人檔案夾，包含基本資料、自傳、成就、精彩的相片……等。全部由她自己撰寫，並使用電腦文書處理工具編輯完成！

At that time, Shiao-Jay was a student of the Special Education Class in the Department of Data Processing at the National Hai-san Industrial Vocational High School. As a worker in computer education, I was surprised to know that a girl from a special education class could learn to key-in and do all the computer paperwork so well. She set up a completed personal profile containing her basic information, biography, achievements and photos, which were all written and edited by herself via computer.

我在推動特殊奧運執法人員火炬跑慈善募款活動時，經常帶著曉婕的個人檔案夾，可以讓警察朋友們很快地瞭解特殊奧運對智障朋友們的協助！

I always bring Shiao-Jay's personal profile with me when I participate in the fundraising activities of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics to let the police officers easily understand the assistance Special Olympics provides to athletes with intellectual disabilities.

曉婕非常沉靜，說話也是慢慢的，但做起事來，真令人驚訝！

Although Shiao-Jay is quiet and speaks slowly, her performance at work is outstanding.



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2005年11月特奧東亞區滾球賽在海山高工舉行，現場義賣火炬跑T-恤，同時舉辦火炬跑研討會，我們邀請了曉婕來擔任志工。

We invited her to be a volunteer at our Torch Run seminar and the t-shirt charity sale in November 2005 when the Special Olympics East Asia Regional Bocce Competition was held at the National Hai-san Industrial Vocational High School.

一早在佈置會場時，發現缺了一些必要的場地告示，我就說：「假如這裡有……就好了！」。接著，我忙著招呼早到的警察長官，談笑進出之間，忽然，那些告示出現了！且貼在正確的位置上！

When I was looking around and checking on the arrangements of the conference room in the morning, I found that some notices were needed, but missing. I said, "If we have something here, that would be perfect!" Then I became busy greeting the police officers and other guests, and suddenly, the notices I mentioned a few minutes ago appeared at the right spot.

曉婕知道學校哪裡有空的電腦可用，主動完成並貼上！多麼令人驚喜啊！貴賓室裡所有的長官們都親眼見證了曉婕的表現！滾球賽後接著展開火炬跑研討會，曉婕是最佳的代言人 (Messenger)，慢慢的、一字一句的介紹自己及參與特奧的心得，努力且有說服力的，曉婕令所有在場一百多位警察弟兄與長官們動容。

Because Shiao-Jay knew which computers at school were available, she edited, printed and posted the notices by herself. What a surprise! All the guests in the VIP room witnessed her performance. She turned herself into the best messenger in the seminar by slowly and convincingly introducing herself and telling what she learned from the Special Olympics, which successfully and deeply touched all the police officers' hearts.

這位窩心的小女孩，是我國1999年夏季特殊奧林匹克運動會田徑代表隊的選手，有一張她在跑道上奮力向前的相片，被國際特奧會選為季刊的封底，並且至今仍常在國際特奧會的網站上循環播出。

There is one photo showing her struggling and running forward on the field when she was the athlete of the 1999 Special Olympics Track and Field team. It became the back cover in the International Special Olympics quarterly publication.



林曉婕是我國1999年夏季特殊奧林匹克運動會田徑代表隊的選手。國際特奧會選擇此張相片為季刊的封底送至160多個國家。
 Shiao-Jay Lin was the athlete of Taiwan's 1999 Special Olympics Track and Field team. This photo was selected as the back cover in the International Special Olympics quarterly publication published in more than 160 countries.

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在海山高工時由趙一檜老師訓練。趙老師稱讚曉婕很乖、很有毅力，而且很重感情。現在她已經畢業在真鍋咖啡工作，還經常與趙老師保持聯絡、回去學校看老師。

Shiao-Jay was trained and taught by Mr. ZHAO Yi QUAI when she studied at the National Hai-san Industrial Vocational High School. Zhao highly praised her for being well-behaved, persistent and affectionate. Now she works at the ZhenQuo Cafe after her graduation, but she still keeps in touch with Zhao and frequently goes back to school to visit him.

在林曉婕的身上，我們看到特奧運動員：純真、用心、認真、努力、堅持的特質。

From Shiao-Jay Lin, we see the characteristics a Special Olympic athlete has: pureness, attentiveness, being earnest, hard-working and persistent.

中文：張瓊文，中華台北特奧會 特殊奧運執法人員火炬跑委員會委員

Chinese: Ms. Joan Chang, Board Member/Torch Run Liaison, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei

英文：林聖章，警政署公關室新聞科警務正；葉琇珍，中華台北特奧會志工

English: Mr. John Lin, Police Officer, PR Office, National Police Agency
Mrs. H.C. Yeh, Volunteer of SO Chinese Taipei

Santa Barbara County Probation Department By Marissa Arreola, Deputy Probation Officer

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, Santa Barbara County (California) Probation Department staff members participated in a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the Thunderdome at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The tournament was a fundraiser benefitting Special Olympics. Sarah McLemore, Mike Rivera, Neil Dreeste and Joe Contreras displayed their skills and agility by



moving the ball swiftly up and down the court! The team was sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Probation Peace Officers Association and proudly wore Los Prietos Boys Camp/Academy t-shirts. The players had a great time participating in such a worthy cause. The highlight of the day occurred when an opposing player came to Dreeste to greet him, acknowledge the camp program, and inform him that he was previously a camp ward. It was great to see this young adult giving back to the community by participating in this great cause with his family present!

The Other Side of the Law

By Sonia Chaput, Sûreté du Québec officer and coordinator of the Special Olympics Québec Provincial Winter Games Final Leg

Police officers and community involvement

In December 2010, I was asked if I would like to help plan the Torch Run for Special Olympics. At that time, I didn't really know what it was about but I had heard about the mission of Special Olympics which is to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sport. In Québec, this concerns 4,100 athletes and their families. So I said yes.

I learned that the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, which raises funds for Special Olympics, was launched by the Wichita, Kansas, police chief in 1981. In 1997, Montreal police officers organized the first Torch Run held in Québec. Today, several law enforcement agencies participate in the Torch Run, such as the Sûreté du Québec, the Canadian National Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Military Police and many municipal police departments, including the Montreal Police Department who are very involved.

When Games are held, police officers carry the torch representing the Flame of Hope in a symbolic run and they light the cauldron that will burn throughout the Games. It is a very intense moment and the energy of the athletes is palpable.

The Torch Run: the NUMBER ONE cause of police officers throughout the world!

At the Provincial Winter Games in Joliette last March, I found out that a lot of people, including several police officers, have been supporting this worthy cause for years as volunteers and that they dedicate a lot of their time to it.

At these Games, 23 police officers from eight police agencies ran together in the Torch Run and shared a highly emotional experience. It is the number one cause of police officers throughout the world. I know for a fact that police officers are part of a brotherhood and when they get together, they accomplish great things. They can go out of their way to help members of their community. The terribly cold weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. I met wonderful people: awesome athletes, wonderful parents, devoted coaches, motivated and motivating organizers.

Special Olympics athletes are amazing people who surpass themselves in their sport and this improves their quality of life. We should all follow their example because sport is one of the best ways to improve our mental and physical health, remain autonomous for as long as possible and, above all, surpass ourselves.



At the Games, when the athlete's companion addressed the crowd, he was moved. He said that he now understood what the police brotherhood was really about. And I must confess that, even after 22 years as a police officer, it took on a whole new meaning for me too.

I received a lot more than I gave at my first Torch Run and I will definitely stay involved! And you too should consider getting involved in this worthy cause. For my fellow Sûreté du Québec colleague, Sergeant Bruno Beaulieu, the fact that I am now hooked on Torch Run and Special Olympics just proves that the "Just One More" concept that he heard about at the International Conference in Long Beach really works! So my next challenge is to get "Just One More" on board with me to organize the Polar Plunge we want to hold in our municipality in February 2012!



FINAL LEG

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece

By Michael Teem, Final Leg Team Captain

Event Overview

An international team of 145 members including 101 law enforcement officer runners, 10 Special Olympics athletes, and support personnel, will serve as Guardians of the Flame® as they run the “Flame of Hope” throughout Greece and visit Istanbul and Cyprus. Final Leg runners from around the world are selected to represent their Torch Run and Special Olympics Programs. Ten Special Olympics athletes were selected to be part of the Final Leg Team in 2011, as has been the case since 2001,



2003 Final Leg showing the Acropolis and Special Olympic athletes carrying the torch away from the Flame Lighting Ceremony

to make this event a truly unified Torch Run! To symbolize the significant contribution of law enforcement and the inclusion of Special Olympics athletes in this unified Torch Run, the Final Leg Team will conduct extensive runs and ceremonies in all Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout Greece to heighten awareness of Special Olympics and the World Games. The Final Leg Team will safely deliver the Flame of Hope to the 2011 World Summer Games Opening Ceremony in Athens on June 25th.

Final Leg Mission

- Create awareness and excitement for Special Olympics and the World Summer Games
- Encourage support of and attendance at the World Summer Games
- Serve as Guardians of the Flame by maintaining and protecting the “Flame of Hope” until the lighting of the cauldron at the World Summer Games Opening Ceremony
- Showcase the abilities and involvement of the Special Olympics athletes who serve on the unified Final Leg Team and highlight local athletes at ceremonies
- Proudly represent Law Enforcement and Torch Run programs from around the world as a symbol of their deep commitment to the athletes of Special Olympics
- Involve, inspire and motivate Law Enforcement Torch Run® and Special Olympics athlete participants to increase their level of commitment to Special Olympics when they return to their home programs

When and Where

The 2011 Final Leg will precede the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Athens, Greece. From June 9th through June 25th, the Final Leg Team



Special Olympics
WORLD SUMMER GAMES
ATHENS 2011

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will conduct extensive runs and ceremonies in all Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout Greece. The Final Leg Team will also conduct runs and ceremonies throughout Cyprus and Istanbul.



Special Olympics

Be a fan.

The Lighting of the Flame for the Special Olympics World Games will take place at the Sacred Site of Pnyx, opposite the Acropolis of Athens in Greece, on the 9th of June at 1100 hours, presided over by the President of the Hellenic Republic and many officials. In keeping with tradition, the rays of the sun light the Flame and the entire ceremony will take place along the lines of the original Torch Lighting of the Olympics Games.

Following the Flame Lighting Ceremony, the Final Leg Team will pass in front of the Acropolis, the Herodeios Theatre, the Museum of Acropolis, the Parliament and the Presidential Palace, where a Welcome Ceremony will take place. On Friday the 10th of June, the Torch Runners split into three teams and the journey of the Flame begins.

- **Route 1** begins from Athens and will cross all of Eastern Greece and the islands of Sporades, passing through the border station of Kastanies to reach Constantinople (Istanbul) on the 20th of June. During the 10-day route on Greek soil, the Flame of Hope will visit over 47 cities where local authorities will hold welcoming ceremonies. In Constantinople (Istanbul), the cultural crossroad between Europe and Asia, the National Special Olympics Committee of Turkey will prepare a warm welcome for the Torch Runners, with routes through the most central parts of Constantinople (Taxim, Istiklal, Galata Bridge, Saint Sophia's Church, the Blue Mosque, etc).
- **Route 2** will cross all of Western Greece as far as the Tristate border, the Ionian Islands and Peloponnese, passing through Ancient Olympia, the birth city of the Olympic Games. Route 2 will visit 58 cities in 12 days.
- **Route 3** team members will depart for Cyprus, an island bound to Greece through important historic and cultural ties. In Cyprus, the Torch Runners will spend two whole days spreading the message of the Games in many cities on the island (Paphos, Limassol, Larnaca, Nicosia) as guests of the National Special Olympics Committee of Cyprus. The team will then begin its route of the Greek Islands, via Athens. Over 10 days the Flame will visit more than 30 cities. On the 21st of June, Route 3 will arrive in Rhodes, the island that from the 20th of June will host the largest number of athletes through the Host Town program. On the 22nd of June, the Flame will pass in front of all the hotels accommodating athletes, destined for the city of Lindos where a welcome ceremony will take place. On the afternoon of the 23rd of June, the Torch Runners will pass in front of the most important areas of the city (the Mayor's office, the Old City, the Castle of the Knights) ending up at the Ancient Stadium where a welcome ceremony will take place in front of all the hosted Athletes and many Greek and foreign officials visiting Rhodes for this special event.

On the 24th of June, the entire Final Leg Team will be reunited back in Athens and will run in front of all the host centers for Athletes where welcome ceremonies will take

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place. At 1830 the Flame will reach the Acropolis where it will remain overnight, in front of the Erechtheion with the honorary contingent of the Presidential Guard.

On the 25th of June, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the Games, the Torch Runners will visit the Mayor of Athens for a Welcome Ceremony in front of the Mayor's office attended by the Mayor and the Town Council members. Passing through the main streets of Athens, the Flame will finally reach the Kallimarmaron Panathenaikon Stadium for the Opening Ceremony of the Games.



FINAL LEG TEAM

Special Olympics Athletes (10)

Zach Commander	North Carolina
Joshua Frost	New South Wales, Australia
Adam Hays	Maryland
Panagiotis Koutatzis	Greece
Athanasios Lagios	Greece
Luis Alberto Aguilera Medina	Paraguay
Stephanie Smith	Ontario
Panagiotis Tourountzis	Greece
Carolyn Voelker	Wisconsin
Tam Wai Yip (Sam)	Hong Kong

Running Team Leaders (10)

Bill Buford	Arkansas
Helen Burns	Nova Scotia
Jason Johnson	Montana
Paul Manuel	Alberta
Mike Peretti	Northern California
Tom Reasoner	Illinois
Luis Rosa	Connecticut
Rodney Seurer	Minnesota
Don Stuart	New South Wales, Australia
Antonio Williams	Hawaii

Greek Police Escort Liaisons (6)

Pantelis Kounelakis	Greece (Police)
Panagiotis Marketakis	Greece (Police)
Dimitrios Stavropoulos	Greece (Police)
TBD	
TBD	
TBD	

Documentation Team (3)

Shawn Byrne	Oklahoma
Andrea Kramer	Idaho
Dave Kramer	Idaho

Council Support Team (11)

Rich Banahan	Missouri
Joe Carlone	Connecticut
Rich Fernandez	Southern California
Roy Forrest	North Carolina
Jim Kerns	Idaho
Tommy Newman	North Carolina
John Newnan	Maryland
Ruth Sanchez	Arizona
Jeff Spaulding	Maryland
Susan Stegeman	Missouri
Kris Weitzell	Iowa

Greek Support Team (14)

Stellos Konstantinidis	Greece (GOC FL Manager)
Pantaleimon Amerikanos	Greece (Police)
Alexandros Avramidis	Greece (Police)
Georgios Bampas	Greece (Police)
Efthymia Chronopoulou-Siapika	Greece (GOC)
Maria Eleftheriou	Greece (GOC)
Panagiotis Exarchos	Greece GOC
Nikolaos Grigoriadis	Greece (Police)
Alexandros Kappis	Greece (Police)
Dimitrios Karpathakis	Greece (Police)
Dimitris Kokkalakis	Greece (Police)
Stamatios Kolethras	Greece (Police)
Panagiotis Perimenis	Greece (GOC)
Ioannis Vangelis	Greece (Police)

Team Captain

Michael Teem	North Carolina
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Graham Family's Passion for Law Enforcement Torch Run® Reignited After 25 Years

By Valerie Green, Special Olympics Wisconsin

In 1986, compassion, joy and hope ignited a movement among law enforcement to spread awareness of individuals with intellectual disabilities. That eternal flame burns with even more vigor today as Special Olympics Wisconsin celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Law Enforcement Torch Run®. For John and Carol Graham, 2011 also marks their 25th year of service to this movement.

The Graham family began volunteering with Special Olympics while John was a police officer with the Fond du Lac City Police Department as a way to support individuals with disabilities like their daughter Brooke. "Brooke was unable to participate as an athlete herself, but those around her either at school or her group home could," said John. "We wanted to support the efforts of those individuals and want others to know that these challenged individuals are very special people...may we appreciate life as seen through their eyes."

This year, John and Carol presented Special Olympics Wisconsin with a 25th Anniversary torch in honor of Brooke, who passed away in 2010. The new torch will be lit for the first time at the 2011 State Summer Games Opening Ceremonies in Stevens Point on June 9th, the site of the Graham's most memorable moment working with Special Olympics. "In 1992, we got to take our daughter, Brooke, to the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Games in Stevens Point [and] pushed her around the track," says John.

Special Olympics inspired John and Carol and Brooke's brother, Ryan, ever since they saw their first Opening Ceremonies. Sharing in the athletes' excitement and witnessing their commitment makes it all worth it.



John and Carol Graham presenting the torch to SOWI President Denny Alldrige and State LETR Director Ray Merlin (From Left to Right: Denny, Carol, John, Ray)

By giving the anniversary torch in Brooke's memory, the Grahams hope to inspire others by thanking their friends and other volunteers who have given to the organization. "Throughout life there are many trials, but from those trials there are blessings," said John. "Brooke was one of those blessings to us. Brooke has inspired us by her strong will and spirit. Her disability introduced us to many people who later became our friends and still remain friends."

Special Olympics Wisconsin would like to thank the Graham family for 25 years of dedication to the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, as well as to the thousands of officers who have helped keep the Flame of Hope burning bright since 1986. The 25th Anniversary torch in memory of Brooke Graham will remind others how much a family's love and support can impact the lives of many individuals.

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Oklahoma

In a true test of wills and endurance, the 2011 Super Plungers braved both the elements and the Icy Water, taking one chilly dip after another for 24 hours straight. The goal of these 24 Plunges in 24 hours is no less extraordinary than the event itself — to raise funds for the incredible athletes of Special Olympics Oklahoma.



The Few. The Proud. The Frozen.



Grand Area showed spirit at the 1st Bartlesville Polar Plunge 2011.



Oklahoma Highway Patrol showed their enthusiasm at the Durant Polar Plunge.



Spirit AeroSystems flew the high skies at the 2011 McAlester Polar Plunge.



Broken Arrow Police Department is looking good in 2011 Broken Arrow Polar Plunge

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented



Yuma's 1st annual Polar Plunge raised over \$9,800. Yuma's mayor, city administrator and police chief all took the plunge with approximately 50 other plungers. We all had a groovy time!



Sierra Vista, Arizona

Arizona



Yuma, Arizona

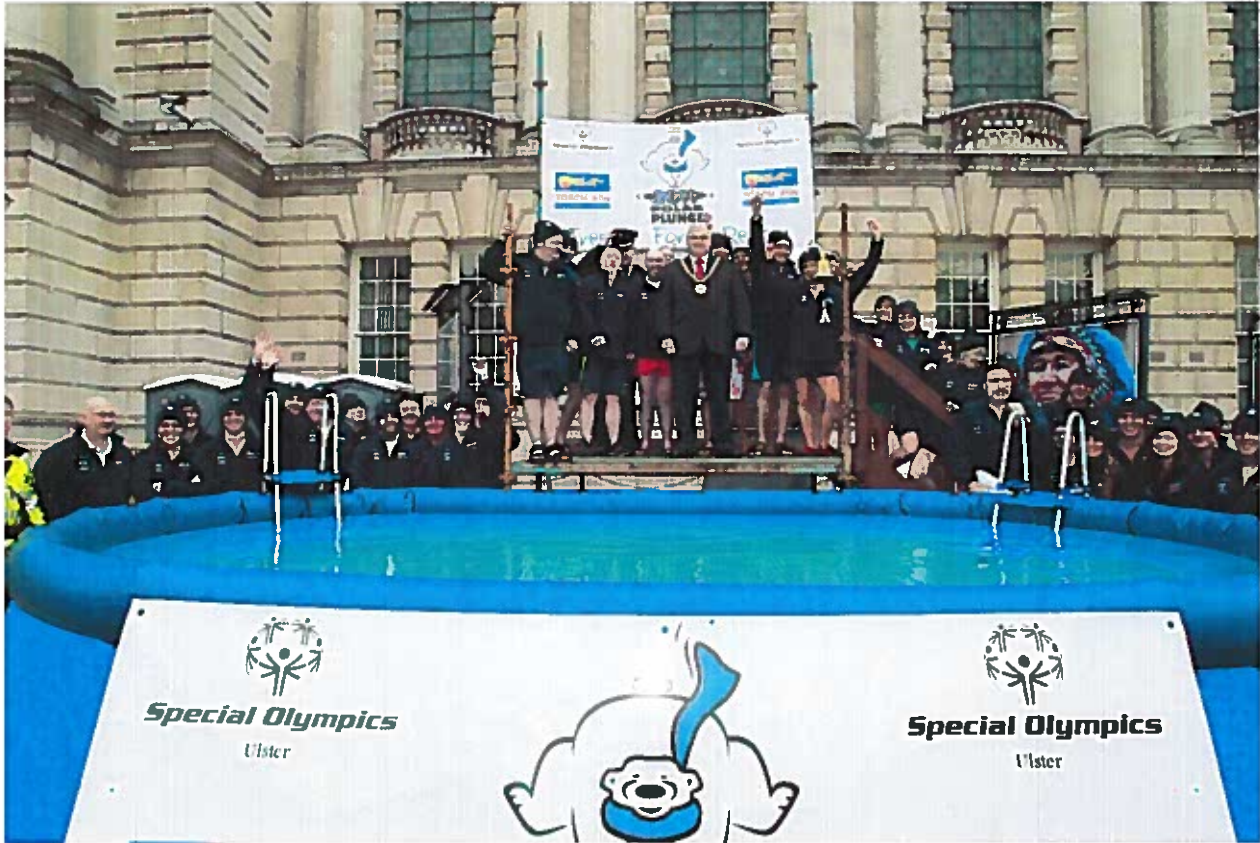


Sierra Vista, Arizona



Yuma, Arizona

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented



On Friday 4th March 2011 at Belfast City Hall, forty-five super plungers, led by five Special Olympics athletes took part in the second Super Plunge in Northern Ireland. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Mr. Pat Convery, opened the event and Assistant Chief Constable Duncan McCausland took the first plunge!



Belfast

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Georgia

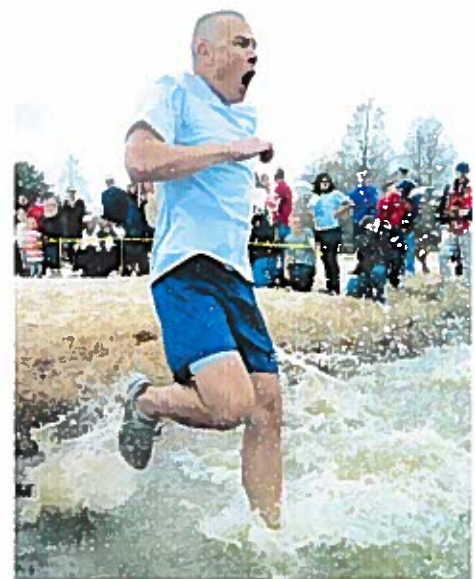
Georgia's 2nd Annual Polar Plunge raised over \$83,000 and hosted 300 plungers.



US Secret Service Agents in Atlanta take the 1st plunge in Special Olympics Georgia's 2nd Annual Polar Plunge.

Louisiana

The water is even cold in the south! Baton Rouge Police Department Corporal Joel Callahan braves the icy waters at the Baton Rouge Polar Plunge in January.



Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Indiana

Special Olympics Indiana had a great Polar Plunge season wrapping up with the Indianapolis Plunge.



The eleven plunges raised over \$375,000 for programs across the state.

IOWA



University of Iowa students take the Plunge for Special Olympics Iowa.

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Missouri

Missouri held 13 Polar Plunges in February where 4,463 people were freezin' for a reason! Plungers raised a record amount - \$943,578, an increase of \$180,000 over 2010 numbers! Youth made the biggest impact representing 35% of our participants.



Kansas City Polar Plunge sets new state record – 1100 plungers and \$255,000!



A group of college students help lead the charge at one of Illinois' 18 Plunge locations.

Illinois

5,752 participants braved the cold and raised more than \$1.4 million for Special Olympics Illinois!

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

THE GUARDIAN

Michigan



Nate Jonaitis of Mount Pleasant, Mich. has raised \$15,000 in five Polar Plunges since 2007 and has been honored as a top fundraiser.



Whitefish, Montana
Photo by Millenia Studios

Montana

Officers with the Whitefish Police Department try to escape the freezing waters during the Penguin Plunge.

THE GUARDIAN

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

New Jersey

The Super Heroes came out to the plunge in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, along with over 5,000 mortals, to raise \$1.3 million for SONJ.



North Carolina



Guilford County (NC) Sheriff's Office held the 11th Annual Polar Plunge at Wet n' Wild Emerald Point in Greensboro. More than 170 plungers raised \$50,000.

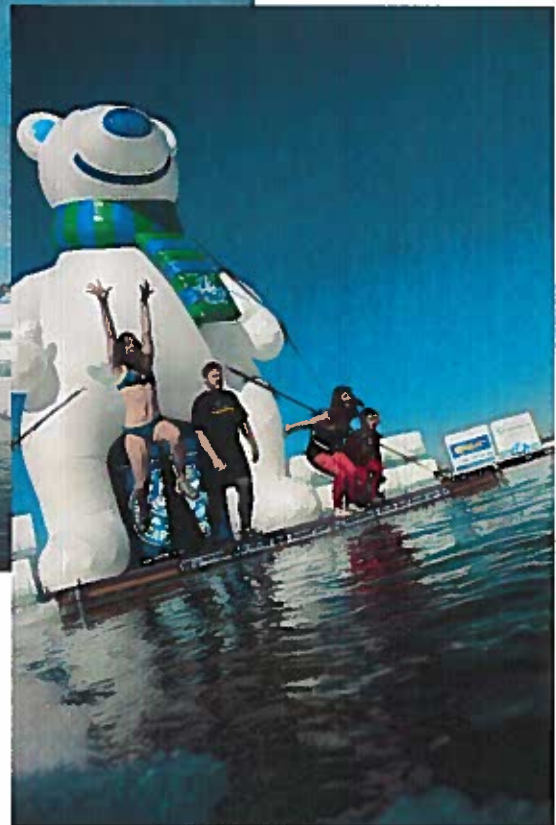
Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Oregon



In 2011, Oregon had five Polar Plunges and a brand new Super Plunge that brought in a net revenue of more than \$500,000.

Oregon Super Plungers in action!



Minnesota

Fourteen law enforcement Polar Plunges cooled down 11,000 plungers throughout Minnesota.

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Florida



More than 400 people took the Plunge at Aquatica on Saturday, January 22nd. It was 60 degrees in the water and 50 degrees on shore. The Polar Plunge, in only its second year, raised more than \$200,000 for the athletes of Special Olympics Florida! This is the reason we were freezin'!



Indiana

Indiana Special Olympics athlete Sam McNew emerges from his annual Plunge ritual – determined as ever to lead by example.

Polar Plunge Pilgrimage Perfectly Presented

Northern California



Special Olympics Northern California hosted six plunges on February 26 and one on March 19 raising almost \$400,000. The High on Quack team got all dolled up for the event! (Go Ducks!)

Wisconsin



9,320 Plungers in Wisconsin were Freezin' for a Reason February 5th – March 5th, 2011. From the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan, over \$1.9 million was raised at 12 Plunges held across the state!

Just One More

By Commander Laura A. Molinaro (retired),
Prescott Valley Police Department
LETR Council Member, Special Olympics Arizona

As individuals who have answered the call to serve others through our profession, we possess tremendous potential to effect positive change in the world today. We are all uniquely qualified to accept the challenges of the moment, and we have the ability to do so much more than just meet those challenges. Among those challenges is the continued success and growth of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR).

At the international level, the LETR has unveiled an exciting campaign designed to stimulate recruitment and growth exponentially. The campaign, **Just One More**, is designed to assist each of us in increasing awareness of the benefits of Special Olympics as well as increasing LETR revenues and carrying the LETR movement into a greater future of assisting larger numbers of athletes around the world.

Greek philosopher Archimedes was quoted as saying, "Give me a place to stand and a lever long enough and I will move the world." We, as volunteers with the LETR for Special Olympics, have the power to move the world by using that metaphorical lever and recruiting **Just One More** volunteer, by obtaining **Just One More** donation, by participating in **Just One More** Special Olympics event. We never know where that **Just One More** individual or donation will take us; the possibilities are endless!

The **Just One More** concept does not require an individual to have buy-in by higher ranking officials, although getting **Just One More** chief, sheriff, or command officer to sign-on to the LETR movement would have far reaching effects! As individuals who are passionately involved with the LETR and Special Olympics we understand the contagious nature of the movement. How many of us started out at a small event, volunteering a small

amount of time, only to become hooked for life? The same is true for others; we just have to ask, tell them about Special Olympics, invite them to an event, or ask for a donation. Once involved, Special Olympics and the LETR sells itself!

It is only the first step that is sometimes difficult. But once you take that first step, once you start talking about Special Olympics, it becomes easier and easier with each successive contact. Learn what you can about Special Olympics and the LETR. Network with those in attendance at LETR conferences, events and meetings. Ask questions; volunteer at Special Olympics events. At some point you will become very comfortable speaking about Special Olympics and the LETR.

I had the unique opportunity and privilege to be part of the presentation of the initial concept and vision of **Just One More** at the 2010 International LETR Conference in Long Beach, California. The break-out session was packed; standing room only. The energy in the room was palpable and it was contagious. The more we talked about Special Olympics, the LETR, and the **Just One More** concept, the more ideas began to flow. It was an empowering and motivating session about the power we all possess to make a difference in everything we do.

Please join us as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the LETR at the upcoming International Torch Run Conference in Calgary. We will hear much more about the **Just One More** campaign and how you can make a difference in the life of a Special Olympics athlete.

Superintendent Inspires Agencies

By Tiffany Harvey-Gautier, Special Olympics Louisiana

Colonel Michael D. Edmonson is the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, a Deputy Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and a major supporter of Special Olympics Louisiana through the Law Enforcement Torch Run® movement. Since being exposed to Special Olympics at the 1983 World Games held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he has been passionate about our mission.



Colonel Mike Edmonson and SOLA Athlete Shannon Cockerham

When Special Olympics Louisiana's Law Enforcement Torch Run movement began in 1985, Colonel Edmonson, a four-year veteran of Louisiana State Police, became committed to the LETR movement from that point forward. His involvement included participating in the run and assisting with fundraisers whenever possible. When he was appointed the 25th Superintendent of Louisiana State Police in 2008, he became a key law enforcement liaison, spreading the message of Special Olympics across Louisiana. Over the past several years, he has attended many of the state competition events and LETR activities, including the Capitol Steps lighting of the Flame of Hope, while inspiring his agency to become a leader in the LETR movement.

In 2010, Colonel Edmonson attended the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference in California and his enthusiasm and dedication grew stronger. Colonel Edmonson has since been instrumental in motivating the law enforcement agencies in Louisiana. He has been working with the Louisiana LETR State Director and the Special Olympics Louisiana President and CEO to enhance the Torch Run movement. "Colonel Edmondson embodies the heart and soul of Special Olympics. His devotion, dedication, and passion for Special Olympics is evident when you watch him interact with the athletes. His actions and words come from the heart, which makes him an exceptional supporter of Special Olympics," says Louisiana LETR State Director, Lieutenant Carl Dabadie, of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Special Olympics Louisiana Board Chair, Detective Ricky Ouber, Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office said, "Colonel Edmonson's experience and leadership has allowed him to develop creative ideas to involve other agencies in the Torch Run movement. He has organized a meeting with all Louisiana police chiefs and sheriffs this summer to promote Torch Run initiatives and strengthen the Torch Run mission of public awareness and fundraising. He has recently joined the Special Olympics Louisiana Gold Medal Commission through which he networks to enhance revenue streams and awareness." Special Olympics Louisiana President and CEO Pat Carpenter Bourgeois remarked, "Colonel Edmonson is the type of leader we seek to engage in the LETR movement. He is someone who is constantly observing and presenting ideas that can be implemented through the LETR movement, as well as ideas that benefit our athletes

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Pictured from Left to Right: Pat Carpenter Bourgeois, SOLA President; CEO Colonel Michael Edmonson, Superintendent of the State Police; Kent Greenwald, SOLA athlete; Lieutenant Doug Cain, LA State Police; Detective Ricky Ouber, Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office; SOLA Board Chair Lieutenant Carl Dabadie, Baton Rouge PD; LA LETR State Director

(Continued from page 28)

directly in a number of ways. Special Olympics Louisiana is honored to have Colonel Mike Edmonson as a key leader in our movement."

Colonel Edmonson is an integral part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run movement and Special Olympics family. He is a hands-on volunteer and is often seen congratulating and high-fiving the athletes at state competitions and he offers the Louisiana State Police Training Facility for fundraisers, banquets and housing during state events. Most recently, he participated in the Baton Rouge Polar Plunge and led other agencies to become involved as well.

"It is an honor to support the Special Olympics Louisiana organization. These athletes represent all that we strive for each day at the Louisiana State Police – Courage, Honor, Integrity, Respect, Loyalty," said

Colonel Edmonson. "Whether it is participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the Polar Plunge or the State Summer Games, the spirit of our troopers is lifted with every interaction with these dedicated athletes. Our commitment is strong as we continue our efforts to be a part of the community, not apart from it."

Officers from small town Alexandria Bay, New York, came together for their first Torch Run in 2010. Led by Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Paul Corbett, they raised over \$1,600 in their first year!

NEW YORK





Missouri's Law Enforcement Torch Run Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Chief R. G. Boehm, retired Columbia, Missouri
Police Department, Missouri LETR Director

Missouri's Law Enforcement Torch Run® is celebrating 25 years of guarding the Flame. In 1986 Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Biele of the Missouri State Highway Patrol had the idea of establishing the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in Missouri. He presented his idea to the Missouri Police Chiefs Association and they approved the LETR as their charity of choice.

Lieutenant Colonel Biele and a few of his law enforcement friends held a 5K run as a fundraiser in 1984 in Jefferson City, Missouri, for Special Olympics Missouri and raised \$3,000. In 1985 they moved the run to Springfield, Missouri, hoping they could raise more money in a larger community. They raised \$2,000 that year. They decided to change their approach and create the Torch Run wherein law enforcement officers would run and help raise funds for Special Olympics. The idea was presented to the Missouri Police Chiefs Association and the MPCA became the founder of the Missouri LETR. We are still a committee of the MPCA today!

That first year, the Torch Run was a 30-mile run from Columbia, Missouri, to Jefferson City, Missouri. Each law enforcement agency ran one mile and all participating agencies ran the last mile together to the steps of the state capitol. Each participating officer raised at least \$100 to participate in the Torch Run. The LETR collectively raised \$15,000 that year and organizers knew they were on to something!

Missouri's LETR has continued to grow and gain momentum over the years. In 1990 our 30-mile Torch Run became a series of Torch Runs that covered 275 miles across the state. In 2004 Missouri's LETR raised a record one million dollars. We have raised at least one million dollars every year since then!



This year Missouri celebrated its 25th anniversary by raising a record \$1,791,982 that ranked us as the sixth largest fundraiser in the world. In our 25-year history, we have raised \$14,732,840 for our Special Olympics Missouri athletes.

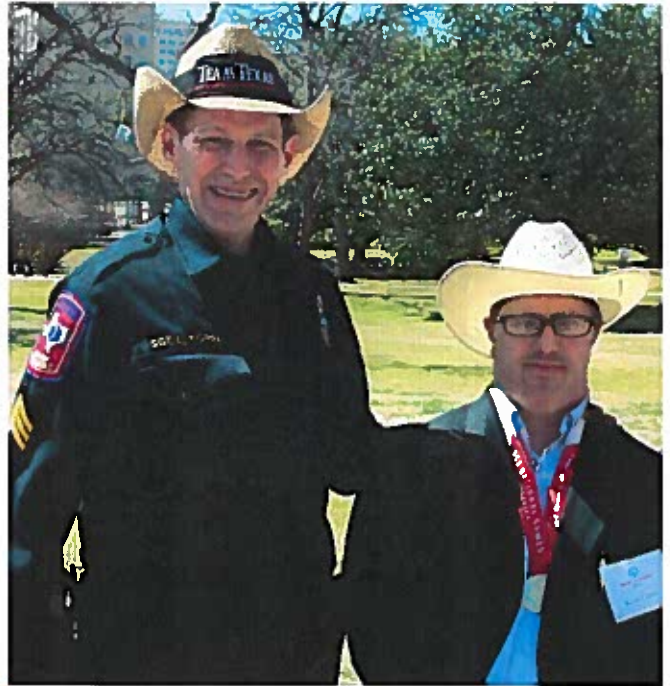
All of this started because Colonel Biele had an idea and the courage to pursue it. He lit the Flame that we continue proudly protect 25 years later. Thank you, Colonel Biele and all of those who have follow his lead to keep the Flame burning.

Special Olympics Texas Style

By Kelly Coffey, Special Olympics Texas

Texas Torch Runner to Head to Greece
 Congratulations to Sergeant Lance Koppa of the Highland Park Department of Public Safety, who was selected to represent Special Olympics Texas and the Law Enforcement Torch Run at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece, in June. Sergeant Koppa was named to the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg team. He was nominated for the prestigious position by SOTX staff and LETR officers.

Sergeant Koppa joined the HPDPS 10 years ago and has been a member of the LETR for seven years. He is the SOTX – Greater Dallas Area's 2009 Community Leader of the Year and the Highland Park DPS 2004 Officer of the Year.



Takin' it to the Streets of Amarillo
 Law Enforcement Torch Run officers were on street corners throughout Amarillo, April 8-9. They weren't on patrol looking for violators and offenders; they were collecting donations to support Panhandle area athletes. Every year, Torch Run officers take to the streets to raise money for the movement. They collected "fines" (donations) at 14 locations around town and raised nearly \$14,000 for local athletes.

Five Hundred Runners Conquered the RO8K

More than 500 runners came out to "Conquer the RO8K" at the Sergeant Ruben Orozco 8K run and two-mile walk on April 10 in El Paso. The 8K Run is named in honor of Sergeant Orozco, who died in 2005. He had been a Special Olympics Texas supporter for 13 years. This year's race raised more than \$13,000 for Greater El Paso area athletes.



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Tip-A-Cop Pulls in Proceeds

Tip-A-Cop fundraisers were held across the state in March and April at participating Red Robin and Joe's Crab Shack restaurants. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) raised more than \$10,000 for SOTX athletes! Tip-A-Cop is a hearty event that dishes up money for Special Olympics Texas. Police officers, sheriff's deputies, highway troopers, and other law enforcement members spend the day - in aprons - greeting and serving dinner patrons and collecting tips for SOTX.



Frigid Fundraisers

Men, women and children of all ages supported the movement by taking a dip in icy waters at one of several Polar Plunges held across Texas this winter. Polar Plunge is a fun event where the brave raise pledges by jumping into freezing cold water. Since last fall, the frigid fundraisers have pulled in proceeds totaling more than \$50,000 at events in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, Mesquite, North Richland Hills, Wichita Falls, Waco, Odessa, Laredo and McAllen.

Bassin' Bunch Reeled in Funds

Anglers of all ages were in the Concho Valley for the 15th annual Bassin' Bunch Fishing Tournament on March 26.



This was the second largest gathering in the entire history of the event, raising more than \$20,000. There were 293 entries, not including 17 entries in the 12-and-under tournament. The big winner came in with 20.63 total pounds of fish; the largest being 10.83 pounds, winning him first place in the 'Calcutta' contest



Canada, Here We Come!

Can you believe it? Only five months until the world comes to Calgary. The Alberta Planning Committee has been busy as beavers (yup, that's Canada's national animal) making sure we're ready for your arrival.

We hope you've logged on to our website and signed up to our Facebook page, eh?

- Go to www.VisitCalgary.com, type "LETR" in the search engine, then click on the link.
- Go to www.Facebook.com, type "Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics 2011 Conference" in the search engine, then click on the link.

Things are in full swing here and we'd like to tell you about a few events that absolutely cannot be missed:



Additional Special LETR Trips for you to enjoy, BOOK EM' NOW!!!!!! **Pre-Conference Event in Beautiful Banff on November 2, 2011**

Departing at 8 a.m., guests on this one-day adventure will travel deep into the majestic Rocky Mountains to the town of Banff. Known as the oldest and largest town in the Canadian Mountain Parks, this tour offers an up-close and personal experience more than 4,537 feet above sea level.

You can shop on Banff's quaint main drag, soak in the famous Hot Springs, tour the caves or ride the Sulphur Mountain gondola to the "top of the world."

Guests will be transported by luxury coach during this amazing adventure in the Rockies. This unforgettable experience is available for only \$115 per person. All activities, transportation and park entrance fees are included in the price of the tour package. Spots are limited so sign up now. (Visit our website for the link to this pre-conference activity.)

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For those of you who are looking for a more in-depth experience in the mountains, we are also offering an overnight stay at the world-famous Fairmont Banff Springs hotel.

Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, The Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, classic cuisine and Willow Stream, a world-class European-style spa. Come and experience timeless beauty and luxurious comfort in a pristine wilderness.

Guests on this overnight excursion will be picked up at the Calgary airport and transported to the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. In addition to this, dinner at the Banff Brewing company including a couple of Canadian brewskies and all of the activities previously outlined for the one-day adventure are included and all for the low cost of \$366 per person. (Visit our website for the link to this pre-conference activity.)

POST-Conference Event in Beautiful Banff November 6-9, 2011

If you are really the adventurous type and a one day or overnight just ain't enough for you, then join us on our POST-conference trip to Banff. After being picked up at your hotel on November 6, 2011, you will travel to the Banff Springs Resort for three nights of Luxury like no other! In addition to all the things listed in the previous trips, you will also spend time at the pristine Lake Louise and walk the unforgettable Johnson Canyon to name a few of the great opportunities you will have. Upon the completion of your trip, you will be delivered back to the Calgary airport for your ride home.

You will never see the Canadian Rockies like you will on this Special LETR trip, or at the rate we offer \$1220.00 (CAD) Single occupancy and \$890.00 based on double occupancy. (Visit our website for the link to this post-conference activity.)

For more information and to book your reservation call (403) 238-2842, email encore-events@shaw.ca.

Don't wait, **BOOK NOW!** (Proceeds from these trips will benefit Special Olympics)

Alberta's Hospitality Night on November 2, 2011

We are planning a Swingin' Stampede Party for all and we aim to please. We invite you to kick up your heels and enjoy our warm western hospitality. The night will include roping, branding, food, drinks and plenty of line dancing.



We've gotta warn y'all to bring your western duds 'cause this event is gonna be down-home and country. You don't have to bring your cowboy hat with you, but you're gonna have to buy one when you're here! It's a rule. And jeans and boots are mandatory – the bigger the belt buckle the better. Ladies, this means you too.

Host Night – A Night at the Speakeasy Club on November 3, 2011

(Continued on page 35)



(Continued from page 34)

We invite you to step back in time to the Dirty Thirties with us during our Host Night. We will be transporting you to the best joint in town called Gasoline Alley at Calgary's historic Heritage Park for this event and the evening promises a gritty good time.

This caper starts with nifty food and plenty of hooch for everyone. Live entertainment will be provided by Greg and the Boys, and DJ Paul

from Split Circuit Sound will be spinning some sweet tunes. There will be lots of Drugstore Cowboys and Molls there so don't forget to get all dolled up.

A couple things you need to know while packing for your trip. We want you to have the best time in Calgary, but we have to warn you the weather here in November is hit-and-miss. You may need shorts and you may need a parka and toque (that's a knit cap or toboggan to you Americans).

Remember also that shipping things in and out of the north is challenging and will cost you your gold strike! SO, plan on carrying your things on the plane, train, or automobile.

Tip-A-Cop in Support of Special Olympics Oklahoma By Jennifer Lightle, Special Olympics Oklahoma


Law enforcement officers throughout the state of Oklahoma traded in their handcuffs and badges for aprons and served customers at local Red Robin restaurants during Tip-A-Cop fundraisers in March. Tip-A-Cop is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run® fundraising event where officers volunteer their time as "celebrity waiters" to collect tips for Special Olympics Oklahoma.



On March 26, 2011, from 11 p.m. until 8 p.m., local law enforcement worked alongside Red Robin staff during the annual "Red Robin Tip-A-Cop" event. This marks the third year Oklahoma has partnered with Red Robin for the fundraiser. All five Oklahoma locations participated: Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Norman, Owasso, and Broken Arrow.

Red Robin donated 50 cents from every gourmet burger and Coke product sold from Monday, March 21, 2011 through Friday, March 25, 2011, to Special Olympics, Inc. Thank you to everyone who stopped by Red Robin to enjoy some great food and support the dedicated officers of the Law Enforcement Torch Run®!

Pre-conference Event – Banff Overnight Adventure

November 1 - 2, 2011 



For the first time in 30 years, the 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) International Conference will take place outside of the United States in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A trip to Calgary is not complete without a trip to the world famous Banff National Park

This Pre-Conference – Banff Overnight Adventure will allow you to experience the best of Banff and have one night at the famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

This tour takes place Tues, Nov 1, 2011 – Wed, Nov 2, 2011.

DAY 1: Arrive in Calgary and off to Banff

***** Please schedule your flight to arrive at the Calgary Airport before 2pm *****

- Escorts will meet you at the Calgary International Airport where you will board your luxury coach with all other members of the tour and enjoy your transfer to beautiful Banff National Park. This world famous National Park has millions of evergreens, majestic mountain peaks, waterfalls, natural hot springs, and endless blue skies.



- Check into the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel: Few hotels in the world can rival the majesty, hospitality and scenery of The Fairmont Banff Springs. Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, The Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, classic cuisine and Willow Stream, a world class European-style spa. Take this day to relax and enjoy this famous hotel, soak in the outside heated pools or take in the views from the Rundle Lounge.

Banff Brewing Company: Become a Canadian for a night



Learn how Canadian beer is made on a tour of the Banff Ave Brewing Company. We will enjoy some Canadian food and meet locals while saying "cheers" Canadian Style.

DAY 2: Discover Banff



This morning's group tour is the perfect orientation of Banff & you will be joining the one day tour group, so you can spend the day with friends.

Banff is the oldest and largest town in the Canadian Mountain Parks.

The orientation to Banff includes: many points of interest, Bow Falls, Hoodoos lookout and Surprise Corner. Guests will then ride to the "top of the world" at Sulphur Mountain in a 4-person gondola and take in spectacular views of Banff and the surrounding mountains.

We will then drop you off in downtown Banff to find your favorite lunch spot, pub or shop until you drop!

At 3:00pm your coach will depart Banff for Calgary and deliver you back to the Telus Convention Centre to check in, allowing you time to register for the 2011 LETR International Conference.

Cost: Pre-conference Event – Banff Overnight Adventure:

\$ 386.00* Per Person (Based on two people sharing a room & including all items listed below)

\$ 500.00* Per Person (Based on one person in a room & including all items listed below)


Included in package:

- Transfers from Calgary International Airport to the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
- 1 Night at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel with shopping card
- Sightseeing tour with experienced tour escorts & Sulphur Mountain Gondola
- One way Transfer from hotel to Banff Brewing Company with tour, food & beverage voucher
- Transfers from Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel back to your Calgary conference hotel
- Applicable Taxes, Park fees, resort fees, gratuities & Service Charges
 - **Deadline for registration September 01, 2011**

TO BOOK, fill out attached registration form and email to:

encore-events@shaw.ca

Pre-Conference Event – Come Experience Banff

November 2, 2011 



For the first time in 30 years, the 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) International Conference will take place outside of the United States in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A trip to Calgary is not complete without a trip to the world famous Banff National Park

This Pre-Conference Event – Come Experience Banff, we will show you the best of Banff. This tour will take place on Wed, Nov 2, 2011.

Discover Banff:

Escorts will meet you at the Calgary Convention Centre (9 Avenue S) for an 8:00am coach to transfer you to beautiful Banff National Park. This world famous National Park has millions of evergreens, majestic mountain peaks, waterfalls, natural hot springs, and endless blue skies.



One Perfect Banff Day is an orientation to Banff & you will be joining the overnight group, so you can spend the day with friends.

Banff is the oldest and largest town in the Canadian Mountain Parks. The orientation to Banff includes: many points of interest, Bow Falls, Hoodoos lookout and Surprise Corner. Guests will then ride to the “*top of the world*” at Sulphur Mountain in a 4-person gondola and take in spectacular views of Banff and the surrounding mountains.

We will then drop you off in downtown Banff to find your favorite lunch spot, pub or shop until you drop!

At 3:00pm your coach will depart Banff for Calgary and arrive back at the Telus Convention Centre allowing you time to register for the 2011 LETR International Conference.

Cost: Pre-conference Event–Come Experience Banff: * 118.00 Per Person

Price includes:


- Round trip Transfers from Calgary to Banff
- Sightseeing tour with experienced tour escorts & Sulphur Mountain Gondola ticket
- Applicable Taxes, Park fees, resort fees, gratuities & Service Charges

▪ **Deadline for registration September 01, 2011**

TO BOOK, fill out attached registration form and email to:

encore-events@shaw.ca

The Ultimate LETR Recovery in Banff, Alberta

November 6-9, 2011 



For the first time in 30 years, the 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) International Conference will take place outside of the United States in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A trip to Calgary is not complete without a few days in the world famous Banff National Park.

We have created a special trip for delegates after the 2011 LETR International Conference to stay at the famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel with some very special activities and experiences taking place from Sun, Nov 6, 2011 – Wed, Nov 9, 2011.

DAY 1: Off to the Mountains to relax and recover

- Late-morning departure (we know after the final night at the conference, you may need a bit of a sleep-in). Guests will be met at the Hyatt Regency Calgary Hotel to take an escorted trip to beautiful Banff National Park. This world famous National Park has millions of evergreens, majestic mountain peaks, waterfalls, natural hot springs, and endless blue skies.
- Check into the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel: Few hotels in the world can rival the majesty, hospitality and scenery of The Fairmont Banff Springs. Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, The Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, classic cuisine and Willow Stream, a world class European-style spa. Take this day to relax and enjoy this famous hotel, soak in the outdoor heated pools or take in the views from the Rundle Lounge.



Free Evening to enjoy dinner at the hotel or take Banff Transit (\$2.00 per person for one way trip) to downtown Banff.

DAY 2: Mountain Waterfalls & Lake Louise Tour

- Meet in the lobby of the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel for an escorted tour along the Bow Valley Parkway and a stop at the majestic Johnston Canyon to enjoy a nature walk to the waterfalls. (Remember to dress in layers and bring good walking/hiking boots as it is November in the Mountains and there could be snow (or not) Ability level: Easy)
- Then off to The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise for a wonderful lunch, take some time to view Lake Louise and the Victoria Glacier.
- After lunch enjoy a guided walk along the shores of Lake Louise with your Heritage Guides.



- The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is often known as the "Jewel of the Canadian Rockies", take time to enjoy the hotel with its famous lounges and unique shops.
- Return by motorcoach to Banff to enjoy an evening on your own.

DAY 3: Discover Banff



This morning's group tour is the perfect orientation to Banff.

Banff is the oldest and largest town in the Canadian Mountain Parks. The orientation to Banff includes: many points of interest, Bow Falls, Hoodoos lookout and Surprise Corner. Guests will then ride to the "top of the world" at Sulphur Mountain in a 4-person gondola and take in spectacular views of Banff and the surrounding mountains.

We will then drop you off in downtown Banff to find your favorite lunch spot, pub or shop until you drop!

Banff Brewing Company: Become a Canadian for a night



Learn how Canadian beer is made on a tour of the Banff Ave Brewing Company. We will enjoy some Canadian food and meet some locals while saying "cheers" to a wonderful final night in the Canadian Rockies.

DAY 4: Sadly we have to say good-bye

***** Please schedule your flight for late morning from Calgary Airport *****

- Check out of the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, and take our transportation with the group back to the Calgary Airport. **There will only be one time assigned to go to the Calgary Airport.**
- Escorts will assist with luggage and ensure that you are checked into the correct area for those taking the arranged transfer.
- If you do not wish to take this shuttle, you will have to arrange and pay for your own transportation to the Calgary Airport.

Cost for your Ultimate LETR Recovery in Banff:

\$ 890.00* Per Person (Based on two people sharing a room & including all items listed below)

\$ 1220.00* Per Person (Based on one person in a room & including all items listed below)

Included in package:

- Transfers from Hyatt Regency Calgary to Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
 - 3 Nights at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel with welcome gift & shopping card
 - 11 sightseeing tours with experienced tour escorts
 - Lunch at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
 - One way Transfer from hotel to Banff Brewing Company with tour, food & beverage voucher
 - Sulphur Mountain Gondola & Lake Louise Heritage Guides
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Tim's Place in the World By Jenna Renee Frosch

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Restaurant owner Tim Harris has never met a stranger and his hugs are second-to-none, proving "I'm more like you ... than different ..."

When Keith and Jeannie Harris welcomed their son Tim into the world, they knew he was going to be special. What they didn't know is how many lives he would touch with his outlook on life.

Tim was born with Down syndrome, and as time went on, his parents recognized the effect Tim's personality and heart on those around him.

"Tim is the second of four boys, and when he was growing up, we saw the challenges that his disability presented socially," Keith Harris says. "We started to ponder when he was young about his future and made the choice that we wanted to create a life for him that was as close to typical as possible."

Tim attended Eldorado High School, graduating in 2004 and was elected homecoming king by the highest margin of votes in the school's history. During graduation week, Tim was also voted Student of the Year by the administration, faculty and staff.

While he was in school, Tim worked at Red Robin as a host. On their trips to dine at the restaurant, his parents began to notice the effect Tim had on people.

"They were visibly happy to see him and Tim really developed a following. People would come to the restaurant specifically when he was working," Keith Harris says. "As we sat there, we started thinking about how we could harness that for Tim's benefit."

As the idea for Tim's Place restaurant began to form all those years ago, in the meantime, Tim moved to Roswell to attend Eastern New Mexico University and earned certificates in food service and office skills. Upon his return, Tim spent most of 2009 and 2010 living aboard a sailboat with his parents and traveling throughout the Bahamas.



"We noticed Tim has a genuine gift for connecting with people," Keith Harris says. "He doesn't see himself as different—he doesn't experience that at all. He's the type that if he's in an elevator, and everyone is staring forward, he can't stand the silence and not knowing people."

As entrepreneurs, the Harris family wanted to secure a way for Tim to succeed without the dependence on Social Security Disability benefits, which put restrictions on assets and income for Tim.

When Tim and his parents returned, they put their idea for Tim's Place in motion and only a few short months later, on October 1, 2010, opened to the public.

"I met Tim eight years ago when I was a manager at Red Robin," says Tim's Place general manager Daniel Meeker. "His dad and I came up with the concept of a restaurant with breakfast and lunch on the menu, and Keith thought it was really important for Tim to have ownership."

The most popular thing on the menu? The Tim Hug—a calorie free, guilt free treat that

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is "guaranteed to improve your lease on life," according to the menu.

Tim says his favorite part about being in the restaurant business is being able to sit down with the customers and talk about life.

"I give them a Tim hug when they need one because I want them to feel the love here and take it with them," he says.

Patrons can find Tim at his restaurant most days, but he keeps busy as a super athlete for the Special Olympics, playing basketball, hockey, volleyball, track and unified golf. He's also a part of a Thursday night college group at Hoffmantown Church.

"Tim has had quite a following guest speaking and inspiring so many people with his outlook on life," Meeker says. "People really need that now. With larger chain restaurants, they don't put that much time into getting to know you, but that's what we want our staff to be doing."

Michelle Garth-Jones considers herself a regular customer at Tim's Place and says she discovered the restaurant while she was walking her dogs along the Albuquerque Academy walking path along Academy Road.

"Ever since I stopped in after reading the 'Now Open' sign, I've been coming here once a week," Garth-Jones says. "I love local restaurants, and this particular one has a story that stays with you."

The menu is simple, Meeker says, and that's for a reason—they wanted the food to be good, but their restaurant concept to shine through.

"It's about the experience, and capturing Tim as the centerpiece to our service model," Meeker says. "We are building a connection to people by making them feel special, loved and cared about. That's what sparks true loyalty."

For Keith and Jeannie Harris, though, the restaurant is about far more than fulfilling a dream—their goal is to help others realize that differences are only a perception. Keith Harris says that so often people like Tim are swept off into a situation where they're not in the public eye, and with this restaurant, they hope to help change the public perception of children and adults with Down syndrome.

"We believe that over time, as people have more and more interactions with Tim and others, they will realize that we are more the alike than different," he says.

For the Harris family, hearing from other families that have children with similar disabilities serves as a reminder of the power their son has over others.

"Tim has the opportunity to serve as an inspiration to families with young children who have disabilities in terms of what they can do and accomplish," Keith Harris says. "Most don't even know it's possible to lead a fulfilling and purposeful life."

"He's just got that confidence," Jeannie Harris says. "Like when he won homecoming king, after we told him he won, he just simply said he already knew he was going to win. He's a visionary because he believes it so deeply."

Tim's Place
8050 Academy Road NE
856-1005
www.timsplaceabq.com
Hours: Open daily, 6:30 am to 2 pm

Photos by Liz Lopez

Poundstone to Promote Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run®

By Michael Teem, Executive Director

America's Strongest Man and "World's Strongest" Police Officer Derek Poundstone Joins Special Olympics As Law Enforcement Torch Run® Global Ambassador

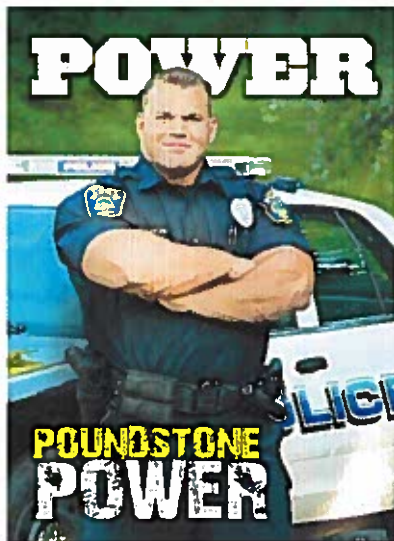


Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run is proud to announce that America's Strongest Man and Naugatuck, Connecticut, Police Officer Derek Poundstone has joined the Special Olympics family as the movement's first-ever Law Enforcement Torch Run® Global Ambassador. In his new role as a Global Ambassador for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics, Poundstone will build on his already established reputation as a law enforcement officer and fitness and health expert to help spread Special Olympics' message of acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities around the world.

Poundstone was introduced as a Global Ambassador at Special Olympics Virginia's Polar Plunge on February 5th at Virginia Beach, Virginia. During the announcement, he presented a check for \$10,000 to Special Olympics to sponsor the participation of a Special Olympics athlete in the 2011 Special Olympics World Games Final Leg Torch Run. He immersed himself in the spirit of the day and demonstrated his commitment and "strength" for Special Olympics by bending a frying pan on stage as a part of the announcement before taking the plunge with dozens of athletes from Special Olympics Virginia.

To see Derek in action at the Virginia Plunge, go to:

<http://media.specialolympics.org/soi/video/PoundstoneFINAL.mpg>



"I consider it an honor and privilege to be named the first-ever Law Enforcement Torch Run Global Ambassador," said Poundstone. "I intend to represent my fellow law enforcement officers from all over the world with pride and dignity. The strength I have witnessed from the athletes who participate in Special Olympics outweighs anything I could ever achieve inside of a gym."

Naugatuck Chief of Police Christopher Edson added, "The Naugatuck Police Department is very excited about the opportunity that Derek has been given to represent the Naugatuck Police Department as well as Connecticut law enforcement as a LETR Global Ambassador for Special Olympics. Connecticut law enforcement has been supporting the goals of Special Olympics and our local athletes for many years and we are proud to have Officer Derek Poundstone as our ambassador."

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Poundstone also announced that he and Solae, LLC, the world's leading soy ingredient company, and Poundstone Power global sponsorship partner, will be a *Special Olympics Champion*, providing support for a Special Olympics athlete to participate in the LETR Final Leg for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece. Derek and Solae are sponsoring Special Olympics Maryland athlete Adam Hays, a member of the 2011 Unified Final Leg Team.

"The Law Enforcement Torch Run is very pleased and honored to have one of our own to step up and serve as our Global Ambassador to champion the cause of Special Olympics as well as represent the passion, dedication, and commitment displayed by thousands of law enforcement members around the world," said Michael Teem, a retired major with the Raleigh, North Carolina, Police Department and Executive Director of the LETR. "Derek is an amazing individual who will use his energy and unique skill set to raise awareness and partner with us to support many of our initiatives."



Derek wasted no time putting his ambassadorship into action. While in Australia in April, he connected with Special Olympics athletes and law enforcement officers to help raise awareness for Special Olympics by pulling a bus for the Today Show in Sydney. Poundstone will also be traveling to Athens, Greece, in June to address the 2011 Final Leg Team and attend the Flame Lighting Ceremony for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.



When not training for his next Strong Man competition or enforcing the law, Derek Poundstone is extolling the virtues of "Poundstone Power" – living a high-performance lifestyle through diet, exercise and time management - to people around the world. The "World's Strongest Cop" has won five major Strong Man titles including the Fortissimus, The Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic, The World Strongest Man Super Series and America's Strongest Man. Poundstone also serves as a full-time police officer in Naugatuck, Connecticut. The son of an Air Force sergeant, he travels the world as an official spokesperson for soy protein on behalf of Solae, LLC. Poundstone also hosts "Poundstone Power Radio" which airs nationally on Sirius/XM satellite radio, and recently began writing a monthly column for *Muscle and Fitness Magazine*, which is published in 13 countries. Poundstone was also featured on the

cover of the March issue of *Muscle and Fitness*.

For more information and to read Derek's inspirational story, please visit www.poundstonepower.com.

Special Olympics Appointee (2012)*Monty Castevens*montycastleevens@sofl.org

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Special Olympics International

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Special Olympics Oklahoma

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US Army Garrison Hawaii

Law Enforcement At-Large (2012)*Kurt Kendro*hpd1670@aol.comkkendro@honolulu.gov

Honolulu Police Department

Law Enforcement At-Large (2011)*Mike Peretti (chair)*mperetti@ci.livermore.ca.us

Livermore Police Department

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee (2012)*Martha Hill*swimmer@excel.net**REGIONAL COORDINATORS****Region I**

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