



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2010

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Two Oklahoma Law Enforcement Officers to participate in 2010 USA National Games' Torch Run Final Leg

*Sgt. Shawn Byrne, Oklahoma City Police Department and
Deputy Sheriff Paul Fox, Payne County Sheriff
Chosen to carry the Flame of Hope into Lincoln, NE*

Tulsa, Okla. Sgt. Shawn Byrne, Oklahoma City Police Department and Deputy Sheriff Paul Fox, Payne County Sheriff have been selected for the 2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg, preceding the Special Olympics USA National Games held in Lincoln, Nebraska July 18-23. The Final Leg Team, a total of 110 members, is comprised of law enforcement runners, Special Olympics athletes, and Support Team members. The Flame Lighting Ceremony, marking the beginning of the Final Leg, is scheduled for Sunday, July 11th at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, the site of the last USA National Games in 2006.

Deputy Fox was selected by his peers who volunteer with Oklahoma Law Enforcement Torch Run. Sgt. Byrne was selected by Special Olympics International and the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Board of Directors. Byrne is one of the nine team leaders, selected from more than 55,000 Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers nationwide.

The *Flame of Hope* will enter Nebraska on the evening of July 11 and then travel throughout the state for one week. The Final Leg Team will visit more than 70 cities and towns throughout Nebraska before arriving at the USA National Games Opening Ceremonies in Lincoln on July 18, 2010.

The Olympic flame symbolizes the light of spirit, knowledge and life. With identical power and majesty, the Special Olympics Flame of Hope, in the entrusted care of the law enforcement community, symbolizes the courage and celebration of diversity that the Special Olympics movement represents.

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Sgt. Byrne and Deputy Fox have individual blog pages set up to document their journey throughout the final leg. They both will have access to email during the trip. Sgt Byrne's email is shawn.byrne@okc.gov, and he will also have access to Skype. The blog sites are <http://www.shawnsfinalleg2010.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.paulsroadtolincoln.blogspot.com/>

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About Special Olympics Oklahoma

The Mission of Special Olympics is to provide a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Today 9,500 Special Olympics Oklahoma athletes participate in more than 120 sports competitions and training clinic opportunities every year. Competition is offered in 15 official sports. There are opportunities for thousands of volunteers. Visit www.sook.org or call 918-481-1234 for more information.

About LETR

Celebrating its 28th Anniversary in 2009, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, encompassing a variety of events including Torch Runs, Polar Plunge® events and the World's Largest Truck Convoy® fundraiser. More than 85,000 international law enforcement officers have carried the Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local and state/provincial Special Olympics competitions and Games, and Special Olympics World Summer or Winter Games. The LETR is now present in all 50 U.S. states, Canadian provinces and 46 nations around the world. In 2008 the LETR raised more than US\$34 million for Special Olympics Programs around the world and has raised more than US\$272 million since its inception in 1981.

About the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska will showcase and celebrate the Special Olympics movement and athletes from across the United States, while illustrating the power of sports to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities. From July 18-23, 2010, nearly 3,000 athletes will compete in 13 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 15,000 family and friends. In addition to sports, the USA National Games will offer various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more or to volunteer, please visit www.2010specialolympics.org