



*Special Olympics*

WORLD SUMMER GAMES  
ATHENS 2011

# FINAL LEG



LAW ENFORCEMENT

# TORCH RUN<sup>®</sup>

FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## 2011 WORLD SUMMER GAMES

## ATHENS, GREECE

# TEAM PROFILE

# Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Fact Sheet

**The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR)** for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world. Since 1981, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics has raised more than US\$370 million, with a record US\$38 million raised in 2010 alone.

Over the past 30 years, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® has evolved from a symbolic awareness run to one of the most unique annual fund raising efforts by the law enforcement community. From Torch Run T-shirt sales and "Adopt-A-Cop" runner sponsorships to Polar Plunge® and Cops on Doughnut Shops® fundraisers, the Torch Run raises funds so that Special Olympics athletes can continue to benefit from training and competing in Special Olympics sports.

More than 85,000 law enforcement officers in all 50 U.S. states, eleven Canadian provinces and 43 countries contribute to Torch Run efforts annually as Guardians of the Flame™, ensuring the delivery of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, state/provincial Games, and National Games.

Since 1987, law enforcement officers from around the world have gathered to carry the Flame of Hope™ in a Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg in conjunction with Special Olympics World Summer and World Winter Games. Since 2001, Special Olympics athletes have participated as members of the Unified Final leg Team. The last World Games Final Leg took place in 2009 when an international team of law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes conducted runs and ceremonies in many communities throughout Idaho to heighten awareness of Special Olympics and the World Winter Games. The 2011 Final Leg will be implemented throughout Greece as well as runs and ceremonies in Istanbul and Cyprus to increase awareness about the acceptance and the abilities of Special Olympics athletes.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® began in 1981 when Wichita, Kansas (USA), Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of Special Olympics. The Torch Run was quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), now recognized as the founding law enforcement organization of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

*For more information about the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics,  
please contact Michael Teem at [mteem@specialolympics.org](mailto:mteem@specialolympics.org)*

# 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games Fact Sheet

## Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

Special Olympics, the global leader for people with intellectual disabilities, will hold the world's largest sporting event in 2011, uniting the world through sports in a celebration of the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and forming a new global vision of acceptance.

**When:** 25 June - 4 July, 2011

**Participants:** 7000 athletes from nearly 180 countries  
 2,500 coaches  
 25,000 volunteers  
 3,000 technical officials and referees  
 And tens of thousands of family, friends, media and spectators



**Where:** Athens, Greece

**Vision:** The Special Olympics World Summer Games will be the a milestone event of a long-lasting movement, founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, to create a world that is not dominated by those who are excluded but by those who are included. In the land of "fair play", where the true values of competition were born, the talents and skills of the athletes of Special Olympics will remind us what the World Games are really about, where all participants are winners in their struggle for respect, inclusion and unity.

Aquatics	Swimming - Olympic Aquatics Center Open Water Swimming (*demo sport) - Schinias Sailing Academy
Athletics (Track and Field)	Olympic Stadium
Badminton	Fencing Hall 1
Basketball	Olympic Indoor Hall
Beach Volleyball	SEFP/Olympic Beach Volleyball Training Center (*exhibition event)
Bocce	Sports Training Halls 1
Bowling	Spata Blanos Sports Park
Cycling	Olympic Hockey Center
Equestrian	Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Center
Football (Soccer)	11 aside – Agios Kosmas Training Center 7 aside – Olympic Baseball Center 5 aside - Olympic Hockey Center
Golf	Glyfada Golf Course
Gymnastics	Olympic Indoor Hall (*both artistic and rhythmic)
Handball	Fencing Hall 2
Judo	ACG-Deree Gym
Kayaking	Schinias Olympic Rowing & Canoeing Center
Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)	Fencing Hall 2 (*demo activity)
Powerlifting	Olympic Velodrome
Roller Skating	Main Hall
Sailing	Schinias Sailing Academy
Softball	Olympic Softball Center
Table Tennis	Sports Training Halls 2
Tennis	Olympic Tennis Center
Volleyball	Olympic Stadium Sports Hall

## Special Events:

**Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg** -- An international team of 145 members which includes 100 Law Enforcement Officer runners, 10 Special Olympics athletes, and support personnel, will serve as Guardians of the Flame® as they receive the Flame of Hope™ at the Flame Lighting Ceremony at the Sacred Site of Pnyx on June 9th in Athens, Greece. 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 for 17 days in all of the Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout Greece, as well as in Istanbul and Cyprus, 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.



**Host Town** – Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout Greece prior to their arrival to Athens for the Games. The Host Town experiences give the Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about the Greek Culture, get acclimated to a new environment, and helps citizens of Greece to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.

**Global Research and Policy Forum** - Two-day summit featuring a distinguished delegation of leading researchers, students, and policy makers in the fields of intellectual disability, education and health from around the world as they examine critical issues facing people with intellectual disabilities in today's society and unveil important new research and initiatives that will transform communities.

**Global Youth Summit** - An assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussion, including a Global Youth Rally engaging thousands of young people from Greece and around the world in a celebration of unity.

**Opening Ceremony** - An exciting and entertaining show with pageantry to open the World Games, held at the historic Kallimarmaron Panthinaikon Olympic Stadium on 25 June. The Opening Ceremony is being produced by a creative team led by Andrew Walsh, creative director Fokas Evangelinos, featuring composer Stefanos Korkolis, production designer Ilias Ledakis, costume designer Elli Papageorgakopoulou and copywriter Theodore Grigoriadis. Furthermore, production consultant for the Ceremony is Simon Graveling, whose experience creating many of the world's most memorable events includes the 2004 Olympic Games here in Athens.

**Closing Ceremony** - An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and official close the World Games on 4 July.

**Healthy Athletes Screenings** – Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have changed the lives of many athletes, disclosing neglect and untreated health issues.

**Unity Sports Events** – A series of individual non-official competition activities. Stemming from the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program, these events will offer an opportunity for internationally renowned sports and entertainment personalities and fans to be paired up with Special Olympics athletes in a series of competitive events. These events will be incorporated in most of the official competitions as exhibition activities and help foster a relationship of respect, acceptance and camaraderie among all participants.

**Special Olympics Festival** - During Special Olympics World Games time period, a series of cultural events will be held in the main Athenian squares, transcending the message of Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 through the uniqueness that the Greek history and culture offer.

*For more information you are kindly invited to visit the official website:*

[www.athens2011.org](http://www.athens2011.org)



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

### ***Event Overview***

An international team of 145 members which includes 100 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 as well as visiting 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 have been selected to be a part of the Final Leg Team in 2011 as has been the case since 2001 to indeed make this event a 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 of the 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 25<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Final Leg Mission***

- Create awareness and excitement for Special Olympics and the World Summer Games
- Encourage support and attendance of 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 as well as 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 9<sup>th</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Final Leg Team will conduct extensive runs and ceremonies in all of the Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout Greece. The Final Leg Team will also be conducting runs and ceremonies throughout Cyprus and Istanbul.

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 9<sup>th</sup> of June at 1100, presided over by the President of the Hellenic Republic and many officials. In keeping with the 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.



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

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2 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 21<sup>st</sup> of June, Route 3 will arrive in Rhodes, the island that from the 20<sup>th</sup> of June will host the largest number of athletes through the Host Town program. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 as well as many Greek and foreign officials visiting Rhodes for this special event.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 place. At 18.30 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

For more information on the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, please contact Final Leg Team Captain Michael Teem at [mteem@specialolympics.org](mailto:mteem@specialolympics.org)



# FINAL LEG TEAM

## **LETR Runners (90)**

Debbie Warner  
Rick Shell  
Kevin Albert  
Terry Kuykendall  
Diana Tuttle  
Roberta Abner  
Ralph Maher  
Brian McCarthy  
Jason Stevenson  
Larry Andres  
Scott Luther  
Patricia Doronila  
Tina Perkins  
Mary Pocus  
Jana Rooker  
Mark Malick  
Felipe Hernandez  
Brian Norwood  
Alice French  
Beth Thomas  
James DiGianvittorio  
David Katz  
Jen Lenarz  
Zim Schwartze  
Jack Allen  
Jeffery Hunter  
Ron Larson  
Francis Morrill, Jr.  
Kevin Murphy  
Charles Gonzales  
Linda Baker  
Keith Jones  
Christopher Smith  
Shannon Davis  
Charles Avery  
Joel Goodwin  
Donald McMonagle  
Jamie Hainsworth  
Bryan McDougald  
Tessa Mitchell  
Lance Koppa  
Louise Speth  
Nicole Yandow  
Scott Carter  
Brian Johnston  
Kathy Schult  
Kenneth Hill  
Clarence Wesloski  
Debbie McLeod

## **LETR Program**

Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California, Northern  
California, Southern  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
Florida  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming  
Alberta  
British Columbia

## **LETR Runners**

Jeff Fifield  
Warren Hudym  
John Pellerin  
Stacey Cooper  
Jodi Harper  
Mary Jack  
Larry Seymour  
John Lin  
Andreas Kyrillou  
Karel Seidl  
Nelson Pozo  
Nicholas Peliza  
Nikolaos Aggelakis  
Konstantinos Gkaripis  
Maria Karpathaki  
Elefterios Konstantakopoulos  
Maria-areti Kyritsi  
Theocharis Lezpouridis  
Georgios Mitropoulos  
Aspasia Pantazi  
Panagiotis Paschalidis  
Christos Vassou  
Lee Yiu-fat  
Jonggue Oh  
Jurijs Misjuns  
Andrew Grech  
Jan Branderhorst  
Gary Ballard  
Mark Harrison  
David Smith  
Wilfrido Colman Almada  
Jacek Hachulski  
Goncalo Simoes  
Brett Price  
Logoitino Filipo  
Damir Davidovic  
Stephen Datson  
Mirsaidou Suhrobjon  
Orhan Sinav  
Michael Olsen

## **LETR Program**

Newfoundland/Labrador  
Northwest Territories  
Nova Scotia  
Ontario  
Prince Edward Island  
Quebec  
Cayman Islands  
Chinese Taipei  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Ecuador  
Gibraltar  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Hong Kong  
Korea  
Latvia  
Malta  
Netherlands  
New South Wales (Australia)  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Paraguay  
Poland  
Portugal  
Queensland (Australia)  
Samoa  
Serbia  
South Australia  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Victoria (Australia)



# 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 / Driver (5)

Pantelis Kounelakis	(Police) Escort Liaison
Panagiotis Marketakis	(Police) Escort Liaison
Dimitrios Stavropoulos	(Police) Escort Liaison
Panteleimon Amerikanos	(Police) Driver
Efstathios Barekas	(Police) Driver

## 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)

Stelios Konstantinidis	Greece (GOC FL Manager)
Alexandros Avramidis	Greece (Police)
Georgios Barmpas	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)
Parthena Nikolaidou	Greece (Police)
Panagiotis Perimenis	Greece (GOC)
Ioannis Vangelis	Greece (Police)

## Team Captain

Michael Teem	North Carolina
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# FINAL LEG TEAM CAPTAIN



*Michael Teem and Chinese Special Olympics athlete, "Alice" on the Great Wall of China during the 2007 Final Leg in China*

## **Michael Teem** **Retired Major, Raleigh, NC PD** **Executive Director, Law Enforcement Torch Run**

Michael has been committed to the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics for 23 years. The 2011 Final Leg will be his 12<sup>th</sup> Final Leg and his last Final Leg serving as the Team Captain. He has served as the Final Leg Committee Chairman and Team Captain since May 3, 1996, overseeing the last seven LETR Final Leg events for Special Olympics World Games as well as for the 2006 and 2010 USA National Games. Under his leadership, successful Final Legs have been held in Ontario (1997); Washington DC to North Carolina (1999); Alaska (2001); Athens, Greece to Dublin, Ireland (2003); Japan (2005); Soldier Field in Chicago to Ames, Iowa (USA, 2006); China (2007); Idaho (2009); and most recently Nebraska for the 2010 USA National Games. Michael was a runner in the 1993 Final Leg in Austria and a Running Team Leader for the 1995 Final Leg in Connecticut.

He has served on the LETR International Executive Council since 1996 and was Chairman from 2004-2010. Michael Teem currently serves as the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, a position he accepted at Special Olympics, Inc. following his retirement at the rank of Major from the Raleigh, NC Police Department on May 1, 2010.

Michael was inducted into the International Torch Run Hall of Fame in 1995 and graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1996. The North Carolina Torch Run raised more than \$8,000,000 under his leadership as the NC Torch Run Director from 1993 to 2003, and the Raleigh PD has raised more than \$1,100,000 for Special Olympics. Michael was the inaugural inductee into the North Carolina LETR Hall of Fame in 2004 and was also inducted into the Wisconsin LETR Hall of Fame in 2010. Unforgettable athletes, officers, team members and too-many-to-count memories from every Final Leg continue to fuel his passion and desire to grow the cause of Special Olympics at every opportunity! Michael is very dedicated to his family and greatly enjoys time with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel (24), and son Ryne (20). Michael's other major passions include playing as much golf as possible, traveling, listening to the music of U2, and pulling for his favorite sports teams to include the Duke Blue Devils and the Chicago Cubs, Blackhawks, Bears and Bulls.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES - FINAL LEG RUNNERS

### GREECE



## Panagiotis Koutatzis

Panagiotis has been as a Special Olympics athlete for seven years. Initially he trained in aquatics and for the past three years he has been training in cycling. His coach, Panagiotis Karachalios, helps him to stay fit and in good shape. Over these years he has participated in several National and Regional Games where he has finished well. He is a student in a Private Special School, where he is specialized in demodernization. He also learned how to play the “bouzouki,” a traditional Greek instrument and he enjoys dancing traditional Greek dances. During his free time he likes visiting his friends. He has participated in the Torch Run for the Special Olympics World Winter Games in 2009 and he was a Torch Runner for the Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004.

### GREECE



## Athanasios Lagios

Athanasios has been training with Special Olympics Hellas program in Badminton for three years. He has participated in the Special Olympics National Games in Athens in 2007 and 2010 and in the Special Olympics European Games in Warsaw in 2010. He is a student in the Public Special School, where his specialization is gardening. He likes making diaries and jewelry with beads. He spends a lot of time with his friends playing games and sports. His coach, Georgios Ioannidis, is also his teacher at school and has helped him a lot with his training in a new, fascinating sport, badminton. One of his best moments in Special Olympics was when he had the opportunity to participate in the Torch Run in Krakow, the Host Town for the Special Olympics European Games 2010.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES - FINAL LEG RUNNERS

### GREECE



## Panagiotis Tourountzis

Panagiotis is a 27 year-old young man who comes from a big family. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> of eight brothers and sisters. He lives in Thessaloniki with his older brother, Theodoros. He is a student in a Center of Special Education, in the Department of Geotechnical Services and Wine Production. He is very fond of sports and he is training in athletics, cycling and bowling. He has participated in many Regional and National Special Olympics Games, where he has taken good places. He is an independent person; he uses public transportation and takes care of himself and his home. He is a very kind, polite and social young man who likes spending time with his family and friends.

### HONG KONG



## Wai Yip Tam (Sam)

Sam has taken part in swimming in many Special Olympics competitions such as the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games. In the 2004 at the RCP 6<sup>th</sup> Tiburon Mile held in San Francisco, he received the gold medal in Special Olympics wetsuit division. Currently he is working as an Administrative Assistant in Watsons Athletic Club. With the exposure provided by Special Olympics, Sam has participated in many ALPs activities including the Global Youth Summit and Global Athlete Congress since 2003. He was also chosen as 2007-2009 Special Olympics International Global Messenger. Sam is also a member of the Aquatics Sport Resource Team of SOI and Athlete Director of Special Olympics Hong Kong. His dedication in spreading the Special Olympics mission has awarded him the Secretary of Home Affairs Commendation. In the future, he will actively contribute his substantial experience in promoting the local Athlete Leadership Programs, aiming to train more athletes for their promotion of the Special Olympics movement and their contribution to the society.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES - FINAL LEG RUNNERS

### MARYLAND, USA



#### Adam Hays

Twenty-six-year old Adam Hays is no stranger to Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD). A native of Frederick, Maryland, Adam actively participates in numerous SOMD sports including cycling, soccer, downhill skiing and floor hockey. When he's not part of the action himself, he's often filming it in his role as SOMD's official event videographer. A graduate of Frederick Community College, he has been involved with Special Olympics for nearly 15 years and has been running the Torch Run Relay since 2003. He is the first and only athlete to be named a Torch Run Ambassador for SOMD. Currently, Adam works as an administrative assistant at Special Olympics Maryland's headquarters where he's particularly adept in Adobe Photoshop and video editing software. He can also be seen at various fundraisers, including the MSP Polar Bear Plunge, where he participates as a 'Super Plunger'—a commitment that requires plunging 24 times in 24 hours and raising \$10,000.

### NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA



#### Joshua Frost

Joshua Frost is a Special Olympics Australia athlete in the Sydney West, New South Wales Region. Joshua participates in three sports athletics, bocce and tenpin bowling. His previous achievements include receiving two gold medals, a silver medal and a bronze medal in athletics at the National Games 2006 along with two silver medals and a gold medal in Bocce at the National Games 2010. Since receiving his ALPs training in 2009, Joshua has given multiple speeches regarding Special Olympics Australia at the Goulburn Police Academy and Merrylands Rotary club to name a few. Joshua has been working at McDonalds for the last ten years and is very passionate about the Parramatta Eels Rugby League Team.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES - FINAL LEG RUNNERS

### NORTH CAROLINA, USA



#### Zach Commander

Zach Commander, 39, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina has been involved in Special Olympics since he was 12 years-old. He has participated in many sports over the years but currently is active in Alpine skiing, basketball, soccer and volleyball. Zach became a Sargent Shriver Global Messenger in 1993. He is a member of the Special Olympics North Carolina Athlete Council that meets quarterly to discuss athlete-related issues with the Special Olympics NC president. He is also the athlete representative on the NC Law Enforcement Torch Run® Committee. Zach is also an advocate for people with developmental disabilities. He serves on both the local and state Department of Health & Human Resources Consumer Family Advisory committees. Zach has worked for Applebee's Restaurant in Elizabeth City for 14 years. He loves to sing with a community choir. He has three children ages 18, 12 and 5. One of his proudest Special Olympics moments was when he and his son won gold medals on the same volleyball team at the state-level 2008 Special Olympics NC Summer Games.

### ONTARIO, CANADA



#### Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith has been an active athlete for 15 years. She participates in many sports such as alpine skiing, snowshoeing, softball, floor hockey, 5-pin bowling, figure skating, track & field, and swimming. She has won many medals in numerous competitions. She's been actively involved with Special Olympics through competition, fundraising initiatives and public engagements. Stephanie has always been determined to participate in as many community based Torch Runs as possible and also likes to help out with the Junior/Youth All-sport program. Her family is very supportive of her involvement in sports and with Special Olympics. She currently lives with her mother Carol and is supported by her sister and niece and nephew in New Market. Stephanie's favorite Torch Run memory is receiving the 2009 Rob Plunkett Memorial Award. Her proudest achievement - winning 3 medals at the 2010 National Summer Games.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES - FINAL LEG RUNNERS

### PARAGUAY



#### Luis Medina

Luis Medina has participated in Special Olympics since he was eight years old. His parents, Luis Aguilera Allende and Aidee Medina de Aguilera are his biggest fans! For the past 15 years Luis has participated in a variety of sports including basketball, swimming, athletics, tennis, artistic gymnastics and volleyball. Additionally, he participates in the different events of the Athlete Leadership Program. In 2007, Luis participated in the World Games in Shanghai, China in artistic gymnastics. In Paraguay, Luis has had the honor to be a part of the ceremony of the lighting of the cauldron in 2009 and as runner in the Torch Run of 2009 and 2010.

### WISCONSIN, USA

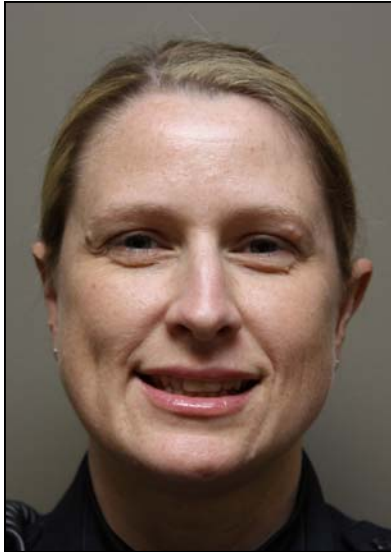


#### Carolyn Voelker

Carolyn Voelker lives in Thorp, Wisconsin and has been involved in Special Olympics for 20 years. She competes in the sports of bowling, cross-country skiing, athletics, and bocce, and a member of the ALPS program. She has successfully participated in three World Games. She is an avid runner, and is able to train independently. She is currently employed at a Child Care Center and Preschool and enjoys her time working with the young children. She has a special ability of connecting with them as well as being able to communicate with people of all ages. She comes from a large family and looks forward to spending time with them, especially her ten nieces and nephews. She enjoys running, biking, rollerblading, camping, kayaking, game shows, and card making. Carolyn loves spreading the message of Special Olympics to everyone she meets.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## ALABAMA, USA



**Debbie Warner**  
Patrol Officer  
Pelham Police Department

Debbie is currently a patrol officer with the Pelham Police Department and has 11 years law enforcement experience. Debbie also functions as a field training officer and an operator on the tactical unit. Debbie served as the department's media and family liaison officer during a 2009 line of duty death. Debbie is a member of the Alabama Critical Incident Stress Management Team. Debbie has been involved with the torch run for three years and volunteers at the county and state Games. Debbie co-organized the 2010 Cops on Top roof sit and organized the state's first polar plunge in January 2011. Debbie attended the 2009 and 2010 International Torch Run Conferences. Debbie enjoys an active lifestyle, competing in triathlons and half-marathons and is an adjunct instructor in Criminal Justice at a local community college.

## ALASKA, USA



**Rick Shell**  
Chief  
University of Alaska—Anchorage Police

Rick started his career in 1981 with the Anchorage Police Department as a Police Cadet. He and his beautiful wife, Anita, are lifelong Alaskans, and have four grown children, and one grandson. Rick spent the bulk of his career as patrol officer with a love of the "street." He has served in a variety of positions to include instructor, Field Training Officer, SWAT operator and team leader, and Negotiation supervisor. He retired from the Anchorage Police Department in 2006 as a Patrol Sergeant, and now serves as the Chief of Police with the University of Alaska Anchorage Police Department. Rick has volunteered with Special Olympics off and on over the last 20 years helping out at the local Law Enforcement Torch Run®, and recently helped Special Olympics raise over \$250,000.00 in Anchorage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Polar Plunge Rick considers it a tremendous honor to represent Alaska Law Enforcement during the Special Olympics in Athens!

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## ARIZONA, USA



### **Kevin Albert**

**Officer**

**Paradise Valley Police Department**

Officer Kevin Albert, Gulf War veteran (1st war) proudly served 6 years in the Navy and after his military service moved to Arizona in 1999. In his mission to continue serving the community he joined the law enforcement ranks with the Paradise Valley Police Department as a Motor Officer in the Patrol Bureau. Upon his assignment, Kevin learned of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics and quickly became involved in Torch Run fundraising by volunteering in Fall and Summer Games. Kevin's growing interest with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® and Special Olympics athletes encouraged him to join the Arizona LETR Council and now in his 8th year, serves as State Director for Arizona. As State Director, Kevin has contributed to several major positive changes within the state's organization. His vision and passion is to grow awareness and fundraising within Arizona to further serve all individuals with intellectual disabilities with sports program opportunities.

## ARKANSAS, USA



### **Terry Kuykendall**

**Sergeant**

**North Little Rock Police Department**

Terry has been involved with the Torch Run for 16 years. He has served as the Co-Leg Leader for the last 4 years and is currently the Secretary of the Arkansas LETR Executive Council. In 2009, Terry won the KARK 4 Community Service Award in Arkansas for his volunteerism with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics. He was a 2006 National Games Final Leg member and his favorite Special Olympics memory is rooming and running the torch with Special Olympic Athlete Dave Lane of Minnesota during the 2006 Final Leg. Terry's wife, Debra, and daughter, Khakee, are both involved with the Torch Run and fundraising.



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## CALIFORNIA-NORTHERN, USA



### **Diana Tuttle**

**Crime Analyst  
Alameda County Sheriff's Office**

Diana has been with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for about 15 years and is a Crime Analyst. She has been working with Torch Run for nine years, six years as the departmental liaison and County Coordinator. She works full time and is raising her son Conner while being very involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run®. She facilitates numerous fund raising events, helping to raise over \$50,000 every year. Diana is instrumental in the continued success and increase in fund raising for Northern California and is dedicated to the athletes. Her passion comes from working with the athletes to see how her fund raising efforts benefit them and involving them in all aspects of Torch Run.

## CALIFORNIA-SOUTHERN, USA



### **Roberta Abner**

**Division Chief  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**

Roberta Abner is a 31 year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She currently serves as Chief of the Leadership and Training Division. Roberta has served both as the Southern California LETR Director and as a Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) Board Member since 2003. In all her years of law enforcement, the most touching and memorable experience for Roberta was serving as the host of the 2010 International Torch Run Conference held in Long Beach, alongside Special Olympics athletes. The resulting bonds between athletes and officers were a life-changing experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Roberta's husband, Phil, is a retired Lieutenant from the same agency and they have two grown children. She enjoys running, camping and waterskiing.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## COLORADO, USA



**Ralph Maher**  
**Sergeant**  
**Fountain Police Department**

Ralph is assigned to internal affairs and evidence with his agency; the most challenging jobs he has held in his 16 years at the Fountain Police Department. Ralph had been receiving low doses of Torch Run and Special Olympics indoctrination since starting in law enforcement in 1989. When he started with Fountain Police Department in 1995, he brought Torch Run back to his agency. He has (and somehow managed to convince others to) pull planes, live on roofs; wait tables, plunge into icy waters and support Special Olympics at every turn. He knows there are reasons for the formal recognition he has received but believes the “thanks” from the athletes and families is what causes him to say, “Wow, Thanks, Wow.”

## CONNECTICUT, USA



**Brian McCarthy**  
**Sergeant**  
**Woodbridge Police Department**

Sergeant Brian McCarthy has been with the Woodbridge Police Department over 22 years. Prior to that, he served in the United States Marine Corps. He resides in Stratford, Connecticut with his wife Kelly and their children, Erin, and Brian. In his agency, Brian has served as a Patrol Officer/Supervisor, Detective, and Special Response Team Leader. Brian’s first Torch Run was in 1991 and he took over as Town Captain in 2003. During that time he has helped to build their program from its usual two or three runners, to the 10 to 20 that participate today. In 2010, Brian turned his passion for cycling into a large scale SOCT Torch Run fundraising event called the Ride for the Flame. “It was a great feeling of accomplishment to help create an event that will benefit our athletes for years to come” states Brian.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## DELAWARE, USA



### **Jason Stevenson**

**Detective  
Delaware State Police**

Jason Stevenson has been a member of the Delaware State Police for ten years. He is currently a detective with the Governor's Task Force. In his off time he enjoys fishing, skiing and ocean kayaking. Jason is an active volunteer with Special Olympics volunteering at events such as the Summer Games, Torch Run, Polar Bear Plunge, Truck Convoy and most recently, organizing a Dodge Ball Tournament. Jason began his involvement with Special Olympics by participating in the Torch Run. After attending his first Summer Games, he was motivated by the energy and sportsmanship of the athletes. Jason's favorite Torch Run memory is playing with the DSP Pipes and Drums as the Flame of Hope was carried into opening ceremonies.

## FLORIDA, USA



### **Larry Andres**

**Special Agent  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement**

Larry has been a Special Agent with FDLE for the past 10 years, and has been participating in the Torch Run for six years. He handles a multi-county region of South Florida, coordinating the run in Dade County, and helping to coordinate the run and Torch Run fundraising events in the others. Larry's region is one of our highest grossing fundraising areas. Larry was thrown into the Torch Run fire when he was asked to organize the Miami leg of the Global Torch Run preceding the World Winter Games in 2009. He coordinated all the Miami-Dade county agencies, including the first ever arrival of a Torch by jet ski in Biscayne Bay, escorted by marine units from local law enforcement and the Coast Guard! He says it's one of his favorite Torch Run memories.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GEORGIA, USA



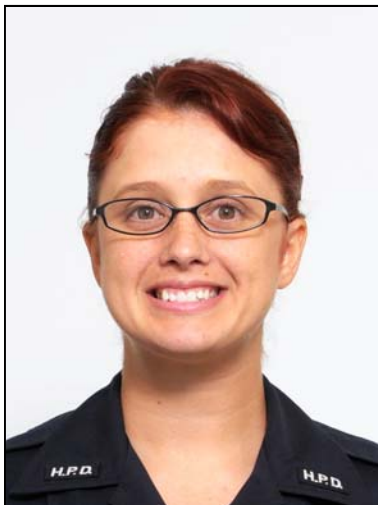
### **Scott Luther**

**Officer**

**Kennesaw Police Department**

Scott Luther has been a member of the Kennesaw Police Department for 13 years. He is currently assigned to the Community Oriented Policing unit where some of his responsibilities are to teach crime prevention throughout the community including the local schools. He is also assigned the Public Information Officer duties and has been the department's Torch Run coordinator since 2004. As the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) coordinator he proudly spends countless hours (even days during the Cops on Doughnut Shops) raising awareness and money for the Special Olympic Athletes. His highest achievement was in 2010 when he was inducted into the Georgia LETR Hall of Fame.

## HAWAII, USA



### **Patricia Doronila**

**Officer**

**Honolulu Police Department**

Patricia Doronila has been a member of the Honolulu Police Department for 7 years and is currently assigned as a patrol officer in the East Honolulu area. She is originally from Cookeville, Tennessee, but now calls Hawaii home since 2001. It is often said that Patricia always finds a way to slip the topic of Special Olympics into a conversation. She enjoys coaching most all because of the one-on-one experience with the athletes, and the opportunity to see her fundraising efforts be put into action. Special Olympics has become one of her biggest inspirations in life and has helped her become a better person, wife and officer. When she is not volunteering for Special Olympics, she can often be found participating in races, hiking or spending time with family and friends.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## IDAHO, USA



**Tina Perkins**  
**Resource Manager—CID**  
**Boise Police Department**

Tina Perkins has worked for the Boise Police Department for the past 15 years. She currently serves as the Criminal Investigation Division Resource Manager for her department. She has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for five years. She currently acts as the Idaho LETR program co-director. During her years with LETR she has participated in numerous Red Robin Tip-A-Cop events, has coordinated the last two truck convoys, has completed two Final Legs as a support team member in Idaho and Nebraska, has started a recruitment program at the Idaho Post Academy, and is actively working with local military groups to increase participation in local events. Tina has one son who is currently serving in the US Navy.

## ILLINOIS, USA



**Mary Pocus**  
**Accounting Specialist**  
**North East Multi-Regional Training, Inc.**

Mary is currently working in Police Training at N.E.M.R.T. She is presently the Accounting Specialist for this police training academy and is a Certified Fitness Specialist, Police Kinisiology Instructor, and administers the P.O.W.E.R. test to new police recruits. Mary's involvement with the Torch Run began in 1987 as a runner with the Wood Dale Police Department. In 1990 she moved on to the Glen Ellyn Police Department and became their Torch Run Liaison. Mary retired from the Glen Ellyn P.D. and now works in Police Training where she became a Leg Leader and a Torch Run State Committee member for Illinois. Mary is most proud of her participation in unified golf where she earned both gold and silver medals with her athlete friend Laura Bosshart. Mary is married to Ronald Pocus and has three children; Lisa, Anthony and Karen. Mary enjoys playing the piano, photography, golf and of course, running!

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## IOWA, USA



**Jana Rooker**  
**Deputy**  
**Polk County Sheriff's Office**

Deputy Jana Rooker has been employed by the Polk County Sheriff's Office for 13 years and is currently the agency's public information officer. PCSO encourages her involvement with Special Olympics fundraisers and the promotion of their events through press releases and interviews. Outside of work, she enjoys kayaking, running, and coaching soccer. Jana has participated in Iowa's Law Enforcement Torch Run® for four years and has attended several torch lighting ceremonies in Ames, Iowa. She represented Iowa in the Final Leg during the summer of 2010 in Nebraska. Witnessing the results of these collaborative efforts on a state, national, and worldwide level has been an awesome experience and has encouraged Jana to continue her commitment to Special Olympics. LETR members have a common goal: support Special Olympics so that all athletes can benefit from the wonderful programs and activities.

## KANSAS, USA



**Mark Malick**  
**Special Agent**  
**Kansas Bureau of Investigation**

Mark Malick spent 21 years with the Saline County Sheriff's Office in Salina, Kansas where he first became involved in the Torch Run in 1987 and has been active ever since. Mark's brother-in-law was a Special Olympics Athlete and after Mark's first visit to the Kansas Summer Game's opening ceremony in 1987, he fell in love with the program. Since that time, Mark has served on the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council, the Board of Director's for Special Olympics Kansas, and was recently inducted into Kansas' Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame. Mark has been quoted as saying, "I've never met an officer that is not a better person because of their involvement with Special Olympics." Mark is a graduate of the FBINA and is currently a Special Agent with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## KENTUCKY, USA



**Felipe Hernandez**  
Patrolman  
Louisville Metro Police Department

On Felipe's first experience with the Torch Run, he was honored to get to carry the torch on the final leg run for ½ mile. This was when he was an officer in California. Felipe was so excited when he moved to Kentucky and became an officer to find out that the Torch Run was active there also. He will never forget the moment of pride on his first run and will never forget experiencing it all over again in another state. Felipe enjoys participating in all the LETR activities hosted in Kentucky. He is honored to be selected to have another "first run" experience carrying the torch, this time in another country.

## LOUISIANA, USA



**Brian Norwood**  
Detective  
Kenner Police Department

Brian Norwood has been a member of the Kenner Police Department for seven years. He is currently assigned to the Narcotics Investigation Section and in his off time enjoys reading, lifting weights, and playing sports in several recreation leagues. Brian is an active volunteer with Special Olympics Louisiana, volunteering for multiple Torch Run and Special Olympic fundraisers throughout the year. Although Brian's involvement with the Torch Run began four years ago, Brian has been one of the top fundraisers for his state each of his four years of involvement. His favorite Torch Run memory was being able to carry the Flame of Hope™ and lighting the cauldron at the 2008 State Summer Games.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## MAINE, USA



### **Alice French**

**Customs & Border Protection Officer  
U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection**

Alice French is the daughter of Marcel and Bibianne Laliberte. She was born in Las Vegas, Nevada and grew up in Lewiston/Auburn Maine. Alice graduated from Lewiston High School in 1989. She told her mother that one day she wanted to be a law enforcement officer. When her mother told her there was a job opening in 1994, she applied. In the interview, she told them that she just wanted to protect the community I grew up in. She got the job! Not long after, Alice got involved with Special Olympics as well as other community activities. It didn't take long for her to see that she would be doing this for a very long time.

## MARYLAND, USA



### **Beth Thomas**

**Corporal  
Laurel Police Department**

Beth Thomas has been a member of the Laurel City Police Department for five and one half years. She is currently a K-9 officer and thoroughly enjoys working with her three year old German Shepherd, Gero. Beth has been active with Special Olympics for several years and has volunteered at both the Maryland Winter and Summer Games and local tournaments and events. She also participates in Torch Run fundraisers like Tip-a-Cop, Cops on Rooftops and the Deep Creek Dunk at Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland. Beth's favorite part of volunteering for Special Olympics is interacting with the athletes and cheering them on. In her leisure time, Beth spends time with her two dogs, Gero and Pippa.



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## MASSACHUSETTS, USA

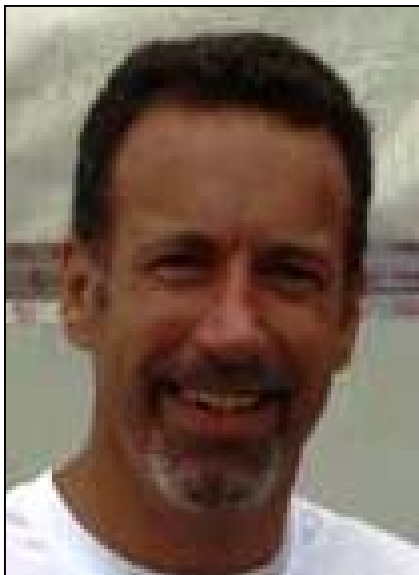


### **James A. DiGianvittorio**

**Chief of Police  
Middleton Police Department**

Chief James A. DiGianvittorio began his law enforcement career in 1982 in the Town of Danvers. He was then hired as a Reserve Police Officer for Middleton Police in 1986, made permanent fulltime Police Officer in 1988. In 1995 he was promoted to Sergeant and then to Acting Captain in 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. Chief DiGianvittorio was sworn in as Police Chief on February 1, 2007. He has been married for 25 years; he has three children and one grandson. One of his proudest Law Enforcement Torch Run®/Special Olympic moments was when he carried the Flame of Hope and lit the cauldron in Boston at the opening ceremony of the Summer Games in 2007.

## MICHIGAN, USA



### **David Katz**

**Supervisor  
Michigan Department of Corrections**

Dave has been employed with the State of Michigan for 21 years, spending 15 of those years in MDOC. He is currently a Parole/Probation Supervisor working in Detroit and has been involved with Law Enforcement Torch Run® for 15 years. Dave serves as a member of the Michigan LETR Executive Committee. He has also volunteered numerous times at Summer Games, Michigan's 750 Mile Torch Run Relay and is the Director of the Bellville Polar Bear Plunge which raised \$46,000 in 2011. He is proud of his two daughters and girlfriend Dawn who have all joined him volunteering for Special Olympics.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## MINNESOTA, USA



### Jen Lenarz

**Deputy  
Dakota County Sheriff's Office**

Deputy Jen Lenarz has been a member of the Dakota County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. She is currently assigned to the patrol division and is a member of SWAT. When she is not at work, she is training for marathons, Ironmans competition and spending time with family and friends. In 2010 she competed in the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii. Jen is an active volunteer with Special Olympics Minnesota, assisting in the Torch Run through Dakota County, as a committee member for the South Metro Polar Plunge event and a member of the MN Torch Run Council. In 2004, Jen attended her first International Law Enforcement Torch Run® conference in preparation for hosting the 2005 conference in MN. According to Jen, "Attending my first conference and every conference thereafter is so amazing, I wish everyone could partake in that experience."

## MISSOURI, USA



### Zim Schwartze

**Captain  
Columbia Police Department**

Zim Schwartze has been involved with Special Olympics Missouri for over 18 years. She started simply by participating in her department's Special Olympics 5K Run fundraiser. Year after year, Zim became more involved with her department's efforts, her regional coordination, and finally on a state committee level. She has been fortunate to travel and do many things others never will because of her involvement with Special Olympics. Zim states, "The athletes are amazing. They give us, as law enforcement officers, so much hope and 'positive-ness' that it is hard to return as much to them. Thank goodness I have had Special Olympics athletes in my life and throughout my law enforcement career." Zim is married with one daughter, one son and many pets!! She enjoys running, reading and playing with her animals.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## MONTANA, USA



### **Jack Allen**

**Lieutenant  
Great Falls Police Department**

A Great Falls PD member for 26 years, Jack is currently in Support Services, overseeing the hiring and promotional process. He is a Crisis Team negotiator and also serves on the Honor Guard. Jack's been involved in the Torch Run for 12 years and Montana's LETR Director for six years. Jack is married to Jean and they love to travel together. Jack counts his Special Olympics athlete friendships as those he treasures most. He is quoted as saying, "Every time the Flame of Hope™ is lit, a spark is involved. A bit of focused energy that, combined with the right fuel, ignites and grows. That is what we hope to accomplish. To be that spark that ignites the fuel inside every athlete to shine, that spark that allows a family to hope. This is what we hold high as keepers of the flame."

## NEBRASKA, USA



### **Jeffrey Hunter**

**Detective  
Omaha Police Department**

Jeff was hired on Omaha Police Department in 1999. He worked in Uniform Patrol Bureau, Gang Unit, Training Unit and currently Narcotics. Jeff has been very active in organizing security for Special Olympics since 2003. In 2005 Jeff became head of security for the Nebraska Special Olympics State Games. Jeff works in the executive protection field for Clark International which provides security for high profile clients such as Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Jeff received Officer of the Month award in 2001 for seizure of eight pounds of methamphetamine. In 2010, Jeff and fellow co-workers in the Narcotics Unit, received an award for a long term narcotics investigation resulting in numerous arrests, seizure of a large amount of methamphetamine and shutting down a large narcotics ring with connections to the drug cartels in Mexico.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NEVADA, USA



**Ron Larson**  
**State Trooper**  
**Nevada Highway Patrol**

Ron Larson has been a member of the Nevada Highway Patrol for 23 years. He is currently assigned to swing shift traffic in the Carson-Tahoe office. Ron has been actively involved with the Torch Run for past ten years from local Tip-a-Cops, Polar Plunges, Summer and Winter Games to Torch Runs. He has participated in Torch Runs during the Open Ceremonies for Summer Games in Reno, Nevada. He also attended the International Conference in Long Beach and participated in the Torch Run there. He enjoys all aspects of Special Olympics. He especially enjoys watching each of the athletes participate in their favorite event. Ron is married with two daughters, one grandson and one granddaughter on the way. In his off-duty time he enjoys golf and working out.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA



**Frank Morrill**  
**Sergeant**  
**Rindge Police Department**

Frank Morrill has been a Police Officer for 19 years. He is currently a member of the Rindge Police Department with the rank of Sergeant working the evening "swing shift" as a patrol supervisor. Frank is married, has one daughter, and he is deeply involved in his career. He is a former DARE Officer and Police Explorers Advisor. He is also a 2007 graduate of Franklin Pierce University where he received his BA in Criminal Justice by attending Graduate & Professional Studies. On his time off he enjoys running, bicycling, camping, skiing, travelling, and do it your-self home projects. He has participated with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics as a runner, a leg leader, and a fund-raiser. His proudest moment of his career was being selected to represent NH in the 2011 Final Leg.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NEW JERSEY, USA



### **Kevin Murphy**

**Lieutenant**

**New York / New Jersey Port Authority PD**

Kevin Murphy is a 26 year veteran of the Port Authority Police Department and currently assigned to Newark Liberty International Airport as the Executive/Staff Officer. Kevin's involvement with Special Olympics began 18 years ago when he was asked by fellow LETR volunteer Robert Driscoll to drive the water truck in his leg of the Torch Run. That weekend Kevin attended his first Summer Games. "After attending that first Opening Ceremony I was hooked. The high fives, hugs, and smiles given back to us by the athletes exceeded what I was expecting." Kevin is also a coordinator for one of his states LETR legs, and has also volunteered at Summer Games, Polar Bear Plunges, Plane Pulls, and "Snow Bowls," as well as a flag football tournament held at Meadowlands Stadium.

## NEW MEXICO, USA



### **Charles Gonzales**

**Community Service Officer**

**Otero County Sheriff's Office**

Charlie has been a member of the Otero County Sheriff's Office for 12 years. Prior to his service with Otero County, Charlie served five years with the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety. He is currently a Community Service Officer and in his off time he enjoys camping and fishing. Charlie is an active volunteer with Toys for Tots, the Knights of Columbus, and Special Olympics where he stays very involved on the local level. Charlie has served as a Regional Coordinator for the past several years and has helped start the Torch Run in two different communities. His favorite Special Olympics memory is presenting the Gold Medal to an Athlete from Otero County. Charlie is married, has four children and nine grandchildren.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NEW YORK, USA



### **Linda Baker**

**Correctional Officer**

**New York State Correctional Services**

Linda has enjoyed working as a New York State Correction Officer for the last 28 years. She is currently assigned as the administration building officer at Wyoming Correctional Facility on the day shift. When not working she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is very active in community service, volunteering not only with Special Olympics and the Torch Run, but has also traveled to Central America working with mission agencies, building schools and feeding children. Her favorite part of her Torch Run involvement continues to be traveling the state to assist with the Games and hanging out with the athletes. She believes there are few greater joys in life than having one of these wonderful individuals give you a hug and giant smile just for being there.

## NORTH CAROLINA, USA



### **Keith Jones**

**Detective**

**Guilford County Sheriff's Office**

Keith Jones has been a member of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office for the past 25 years. He is currently a Detective in the Major Crimes Investigative Unit. In his off-time, he enjoys running, playing golf, and fishing the North Carolina coast. Keith is very involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® and serves as a Co-Coordinator for his department. Keith has run the torch into the Opening Games in the Greensboro-High Point Area and has a special bond with the athletes in that area.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NORTH DAKOTA, USA



### **Chris Smith**

**Investigator**

**Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department**

Chris Smith has been a member of the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department for 16 years. He is currently assigned to the Investigation Division. In his free time Chris enjoys running, gardening, cooking, and watching college football and hockey with his wife and two sons. Chris is also known in the Grand Forks area as "Captain Cannonball." The Captain is a character Chris created to raise funds for the North Dakota Special Olympics Polar Plunge. He has participated in the event two out of three years and has raised a total of \$2,800.

## OHIO, USA



### **Shannon Davis**

**Detective**

**Barberton Police Department**

Shannon Davis has been a member of the Barberton Police Department for 14 years. She is currently assigned to the Detective Bureau where she investigates child abuse cases. She has been involved in the Torch Run for the past 13 years starting as a support runner then becoming a leg leader. One of her favorite parts of the Torch Run week is having an athlete with us for a few days and getting to know them. In the winter she participates in the North American Ski Championships held in Colorado where they race and raise money for the Special Olympics Winter Games. She is also on the board for Victim's Assistance. In her free time she enjoys biking, skiing and anything outdoors.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## OKLAHOMA, USA



### **Charles Avery**

**Lieutenant**

**Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office**

One of the first experiences Lt. Charles Avery had with Special Olympics athletes was when he was a School Resource Officer. He learned a lot from the students, most importantly perseverance. As a young officer starting out, it's often easy to get discouraged, but having contact with many of these athletes, and seeing their drive and determination is very empowering. Lt. Avery attended his first Opening Ceremony for the Summer Games in May of 2010 and was left speechless. He had no idea the impact that officers personally had on the athletes. Even more of a surprise to him was the effect the athletes had on the officers.

## OREGON, USA



### **Joel Goodwin**

**Sergeant**

**Corvallis Police Department**

Sergeant Joel Goodwin has been with the Corvallis Police Department for nearly 13 years. He has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® that entire time participating in a variety of roles; Torch Runner, Leg Coordinator, Executive Council Member, and Executive Council Chair for the State of Oregon. Joel draws inspiration from the athletes he meets, and each 'thank-you' from an athlete or parent acts as additional motivation. This spark of inspiration is contagious – Joel's friends, family, and co-workers are also joining him in working to help Special Olympics. He is honored to represent all those who have provided their support, and looks forward to continuing to help Special Olympics athletes achieve greatness!



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## PENNSYLVANIA, USA



### **Donald McMonagle**

**Parole Agent II**

**Pennsylvania Board of Probation/Parole**

Donald McMonagle has been with Pennsylvania Parole for the past eight years and was a Corrections Officer with the state for seven years prior. He is currently a Parole Agent II supervising offenders in Chester County. When he has time off, he enjoys running, working out, hunting, and riding 4 wheelers. He also volunteers as his Church's youth group leader. Donald has been married to Michelle for 17 years and together they have two children, a son, Roman, and a daughter, Amanda. Last year Donald had the honor of representing Pennsylvania at the 2010 USA National Games Final Leg and has many fond memories of the time spent with his team and the Special Olympics Athletes.

## RHODE ISLAND, USA



### **Jamie Hainsworth**

**Chief (ret.)**

**Glocester Police Department**

Chief Jamie Hainsworth has over thirty one years of experience in all levels of law enforcement. He served his entire career with the Glocester Police Department and for the last eleven years as the Chief of Police. He is a past president of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association. He is also a current member on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Rhode Island. In 2001 Jamie received the "Flame of Hope" Award from Special Olympics Rhode Island. In 2007 he was honored with the prestigious John Carion Memorial "Unsung Hero" Award from the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council. In February of 2010, Chief Hainsworth retired and he accepted a position with MADD, Rhode Island. Ms. Abbate, MADD RI's Executive Director, proudly described Chief Hainsworth as the perfect candidate for the position which became vacant in early October.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## SOUTH CAROLINA, USA



**Bryan McDougald**  
Corporal  
South Carolina Highway Patrol

Five years ago, Bryan's co-worker asked him to run the Final Leg from the State House to Fort Jackson for Summer Games. His excitement over being involved with the athletes led to year-round participation in Torch Run and eventually to his being named State Director. Bryan is now in his second year as the South Carolina Torch Run Director. Under him, the state program has increased the number of agencies participating, increased the amount of funds raised and increased the year-round participation of law enforcement officers involved in local and state Games. Bryan receives strong support from his wife Barbara, his two daughters Morgan and Madison and his son Brant. The family lives in Chester, South Carolina.

## SOUTH DAKOTA, USA



**Tessa Mitchell**  
Patrol Officer  
Rapid City Police Department

Tessa has been employed with the Rapid City Police Department for three and a half years. She is currently a Patrol Officer and work various hours and shifts. She loves spending her spare time with her family, spending every moment they can outdoors either camping or hiking. Tessa's other love is for Special Olympics. She has been involved with Special Olympics as long as she can remember. Her mother was a Special Education teacher and was very active with her students. Tessa spent a lot of her free time volunteering and helping out with Special Olympics since she was a young child. She has continued volunteering her time throughout her law enforcement career and has participated in three Torch Runs, three Polar Plunges® and has been to two LETR International Conferences. The smiles from the children and their families is what makes this so memorable for Tessa!

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## TEXAS, USA



### **Lance Koppa**

**Sergeant  
Highland Park DPS**

Lance began his career search in 1999 and was recruited by Highland Park DPS in July of 2000. Highland Park DPS is one of a few agencies in the nation where each officer is triple certified as a police officer, firefighter and paramedic. Seven years ago Lance was encouraged to join the Torch Run by his supervisor. In addition to Torch Run activities Lance has attended the 2007 International Conference, assisted with fundraising for the 2008 International Conference in Dallas, earned the highest agency fundraising award in 2007, and in 2010 received the invitation to the Athens Final Leg. Above all, Lance will tell you that his greatest satisfaction is meeting the athletes and learning of their accomplishments. Lance uses their victories as motivation for his own athletic pursuits. Lance is married and lives with his wife in a small cozy neighborhood in Dallas.

## UTAH, USA



### **Louise Speth**

**Sergeant  
Logan City Police Department**

Louise Speth has been a member of the Logan City Police Department since 1996, and currently serves as the Sergeant in the School Resource Officer Division. Her involvement with Torch Run and Special Olympics Utah started in 1997 when she began coordinating the Cache Valley Torch Run. Now she runs, plunges, plays dodge-ball and looks for new ways to support Special Olympics across the state. She also serves as a member of the Utah Torch Run Executive Council. Some of her favorite Special Olympics moments include hearing the athletes speak their oath at Opening Ceremonies, watching them parade and go through the high-five line, and seeing the joy on their faces as they compete in their events. Louise is married, with one daughter, and participates regularly in charity running and triathlon races.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## VERMONT, USA



**Nicole Yandow**  
**Emergency Services Dispatcher**  
**Essex Police Department**

Nikki's involvement with the Torch Run began nine years ago when she was asked to assist the department coordinator with t-shirt sales and runner registration. Soon, she became a more active fundraiser and helped organize the department's first "Tip-A-Cop for Mom and Pop" which is now an annual event. Nikki attended the 2007 Law Enforcement Torch Run® International Conference and returned to Vermont supercharged by the experience. She joined the VT Law Enforcement Torch Run® Committee and loves to fundraise on behalf of Special Olympics. Nikki is married and has two sons, Brad and Camden. Her favorite Torch Run memory is when Camden, then four, said he wanted to run the final leg with her. He rode in a police car until the last half mile when he took off running, singing cadence and beaming with pride.

## VIRGINIA, USA



**Scott Carter**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Hanover County Sheriff's Office**

Scott Carter has been employed with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office for 24 years. He is currently assigned to Uniform Patrol Operations on evening shift. He has participated in the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run® program for the past 23 years. He has served as the Sheriff's Office liaison for 13 years and as liaison for the Region Director several times. His greatest impact on the Torch Run has been the state-wide motorcycle raffle that he has coordinated for past 10 years. He is a member of the Virginia Torch Run Executive Council. In 2005, he was granted the Meritorious Award for enhancing the image of the Hanover County Sheriff's Office within the law enforcement community, the County of Hanover and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2010, he was inducted into the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## WASHINGTON, USA



**Brian Johnson**  
Sergeant  
Monroe Police Department

Brian is a native Washingtonian. He has been with the Monroe Police Department since 1984, and is currently assigned to patrol. Brian leads an active life, spending a great deal of time training and participating in organized running events and endurance bicycling events. His Special Olympics / Torch Run involvement came in the late 80's where he was a driver escorting runners through his city. He became involved again in 1995 when his chief issued a challenge to her officers. Since then, he has participated in many Torch Run events throughout Washington as well as Special Olympic sporting events. Brian truly believes that as a Law Enforcement Torch Runner, it is his honor and obligation to forward the message and the cause of Special Olympics and the remarkable athletes, throughout his community both here and abroad wherever he may be.

## WISCONSIN, USA



**Kathy Schult**  
Officer  
Milwaukee Police Department

Officer Kathy Schult has been a member of the Milwaukee Police Department for 29½ years. She has worked as a Patrol Officer, Bicycle Officer, Beat Officer, Community Liaison Officer, Undercover, Special Assignment and Instructor at the Training Academy. She is currently the Coordinator for the Auxiliary and Explorer Program (approximately 200 volunteers). Kathy is an active volunteer with Special Olympics handing out awards at all the area events (basketball, gymnastics, softball, aquatics, track & field, etc.). She serves on the local Law Enforcement Torch Run, Bradford Beach Polar Plunge, Muskego Polar Plunge and Over the Edge committees and participates in all Final Leg and Tip-A-Cop® events. She loves watching the athletes get their awards and to see how proud and excited they are at their accomplishments. Kathy is honored to be selected to represent Wisconsin on the Final Leg team.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## WYOMING, USA



### **Kenneth Boot Hill**

**Deputy  
Sheridan County Sheriff's Office**

Boot Hill has been in law enforcement for the past twelve years, the past seven and a half years with the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office. For the past three years, Boot has been assigned to the D.A.R.E. and School Resource Office program. His involvement with Special Olympics began three years ago when he decided to participate in the Jackalope Jump. He then was asked to coordinate the local Cops-n-Jocks event and then the local Torch Run, and he has been going strong ever since. Boot states that he has never been involved in anything where the cause and people are so genuine. Outside of work Boot enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons, spending as much time as they can camping, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

## GREECE



### **Nikolaos Aggelakis**

**Police Sergeant  
Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Nikolaos has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 13 years. He is a brilliant soccer player. In his time off he enjoys playing soccer. Nikolaos is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GREECE



### **Konstantinos Gkaripis**

**Police Constable**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Konstantinos has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 11 years. He is a great athlete in weight lifting. In his time off he enjoys listening to music and doing sports in general. He participated as athlete in weight lifting in in Olympic Games of Beijing in 2008. Konstantinos is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

## GREECE



### **Maria Karpathaki**

**Police Sergeant**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Maria has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 14 years. She is a very good athlete in Tae-kwon do. In her time off she enjoys watching movies at the cinema and doing Tae kwon do. Maria is very humbled by her involvement in the Torch Run.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GREECE



**Elefterios Konstantakopoulos**  
**Police Constable**  
**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Elefterios has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for eight years. He is a very good athlete in karate. In his time off he enjoys doing karate, diving, snowboarding and wakeboarding. Elefterios is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

## GREECE



**Maria-Areti Kyritsi**  
**Police Constable**  
**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Maria-Areti has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for nine years. She is a brilliant volleyball player. In in her time off she enjoys playing volleyball and watching movies at the cinema. Maria-Areti is very humbled by her involvement in the Torch Run.



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GREECE



### **Theocharis Lezpouridis**

**Police Constable**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Theocharis has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 10 years and he is a great athlete in weight lifting. In his time off he enjoys doing weight lifting and sports in general. He participated as athlete of weight lifting in a youth camp at the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. Theocharis is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

## GREECE



### **Georgios Mitropoulos**

**Police Sergeant**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Georgios has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 16 years. He is a brilliant soccer player. In his time off he enjoys playing soccer. Georgios is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GREECE



### **Aspasia Pantazi**

**Police Sergeant**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Aspasia has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 12 years. She is a brilliant volleyball player. In her time off she enjoys playing volleyball, painting, photography and traveling all around the world. Aspasia is very humbled by her involvement in the Torch Run.

## GREECE



### **Panagiotis Paschalidis**

**Police Constable**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Paschalidis has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 10 years. He is a very good athlete in tzounto. In his time off he enjoys doing tzounto and listening to music. Panagiotis is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GREECE



### **Christos Vassou**

**Police Sergeant  
Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Vassou Christos has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 11 years, as he is a brilliant athlete of Truck and Field athletics, in his time off he enjoys watching movies at the cinema. His favorite Torch Run memory is running in Olympic Games Torch Run in 2004 to his hometown Drama in Greece. Christos is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

## ALBERTA, CANADA



### **Clarence Wesloski**

**Sheriff  
Alberta Sheriffs**

Clarence Wesloski has been a member of the Alberta Sheriffs for five years and is currently with the Integrated Traffic Unit. Aside from the Torch Run he has been actively involved with the athletes by organizing and participating in floor hockey and soccer games. Clarence also enjoys competing in Walleye Fishing Tournaments, playing hockey, football, running in Ultra Series Races and coaching his sons in any of the sports that they are involved in. His favorite Torch Run memory is his first year participating in a “Free the Fuzz” event. “I was amazed by the generosity of the public as we far exceed our goal of \$15,000.00 and raised \$21,000.00”. “I was truly humbled with this experience and have been hooked ever since”.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



### **Debbie McLeod**

**Sergeant  
Delta Police Department**

Debbie McLeod is a 20 year member of the Delta Police Department. She is an avid runner, hiker and outdoors enthusiast, and is active in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® and fund raising for 11 years. Debbie has been hooked since the first time she heard an athlete give an inspirational speech in front of hundreds of people in 2004, at the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Conference in San Francisco. But the most special moments for her are when the athletes, sponsors and members of the law enforcement community run, escorted by a police motorcade into our police headquarters where we are greeted by an overwhelming number of Special Olympic athletes, parents and coaches all who are lined up along the street waiting to join us in the final steps of our Torch Run. These are truly inspirational moments and friendships that Debbie will never to forget.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA



### **Warren Hudym**

**Constable  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

Warren Hudym has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for four years. He is currently posted as a general duty Constable with the Yellowknife RCMP Detachment in the Northwest Territories, Canada. Throughout his service with the RCMP, Warren has been involved with the LETR as a volunteer and support person. Warren has assisted with airplane pulls, polar plunges and other activities which have raised funds for Special Olympics NWT, allowing them to expand their programs. During the 2010 LETR International Conference, Warren was deeply moved by the inspirational personal stories of the Global Messengers and the impact the LETR has had on their lives.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR, CANADA



### **Jeffrey Fifield**

**Constable**

**Memorial University Campus Enforcement**

Jeffrey Fifield has been employed with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Campus Enforcement and Patrol for the last 22 years. Ten years ago, Jeff became a member of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Committee in St. John's, Newfoundland assisting with awareness and much needed fundraising for Special Olympics. The Newfoundland and Labrador LETR is the largest donator for Special Olympics in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jeff's hobbies and interests include running, hunting, fishing, and ski-dooing. Jeff has attended the 2006 Summer Games in Brandon, Manitoba and has attended both Summer and Winter Special Olympic Games in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jeff's proudest moment in 2007 was having his son and daughter engage in the LETR for St. John's, NL. Jeff is quoted as saying "what an incredible feeling to run in the stadium in Brandon, Manitoba and having athletes' high-five them".

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA



### **Jodi Harper**

**Highway Safety Officer**

**Province of Prince Edward Island**

Jodi has been a Highway Safety Officer for the Province of Prince Edward Island, Canada for eight years. She has been a volunteer with Special Olympics for seven years and has been the Athletics Head Coach since 2005. She is presently the SOPEI Team Manager for the Canadian National Winter Games in Alberta in 2012. Jodi has also coached at two National Summer Games Competitions. Jodi has a 21 year old son who is a Medic in The Canadian Armed Forces. She spends most of her spare time at the track or in the gym with the Special Olympic athletes, who never fail to put a smile on her face.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA



**John Pellerin**  
**Auxiliary Constable**  
**Antigonish RCMP District**

John Pellerin has been a member of the Antigonish Royal Canadian Mounted Police District for the past 10 years. He is currently the Coordinator for the Antigonish Town & County Seniors Safety Program. John's involvement with Special Olympics began ten years ago when he was asked to sit on the Nova Scotia Law Enforcement Torch Run® Committee. His love for Special Olympics, the athletes and everyone that is committed to these wonderful individuals grows stronger each and everyday. John strongly believes that through life people are put in the paths of one's life and through this he has been given the opportunity to meet and work with wonderful gifted individuals. John is very involved in his community and is a strong believer of volunteerism. John is a Celtic Fiddler, a volunteer firefighter and is a member of MADD Antigonish, Antigonish Crime Stoppers and the Antigonish Town and County Crime Prevention Association. He is single along with his faithful companion, his dog Dixie.

## ONTARIO, CANADA



**Stacey Cooper**  
**Constable**  
**Ontario Provincial Police**

Stacey Cooper has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics for 20 years. She is a Provincial Constable working with the Ontario Provincial Police for 21 years. She has assisted with many fundraising events. Stacey was presented with the Award of Honor in 2007, the Highest Fundraising Award for Zone 2 in 2010, and was inducted into Special Olympics Ontario Hall of Fame in 2010. She currently lives in Kingston with her husband and two boys. She enjoys coaching and playing hockey, soccer and running. She likes spending her time outdoors and with her family and friends. Her favorite Torch Run memory is having one of the local athletes from her hometown area light the torch at the local run for OLETR - she lit the Torch with her Grandmother who was in her 90's.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## QUEBEC, CANADA



### **Mary Jack**

**Patrol Officer  
Montreal Police Service**

Mary Jack has been a member of the Montreal Police Service for 13 years. She is currently a patrol officer on shift work and in her time off enjoys home renovations and motorcycling. Mary's involvement with Special Olympics began in 2004; she was hooked after participating in her first International Conference. Since then she has been busy organising fundraisers such as cop-on-top, Truck Convoy, car washes and haunted houses. Her favorite Torch Run memory was after spending 49 hours on the rooftop of her local Walmart in -35c weather, an athlete and his family thanked her for doing what she did. Mary is quoted to say, "Entering the stadium with the flame at the 2008 National Final Leg in Quebec to the exuberant cheers of the thousands of athletes was an experience I'll never forget!"

## AUSTRALIA – NEW SOUTH WALES



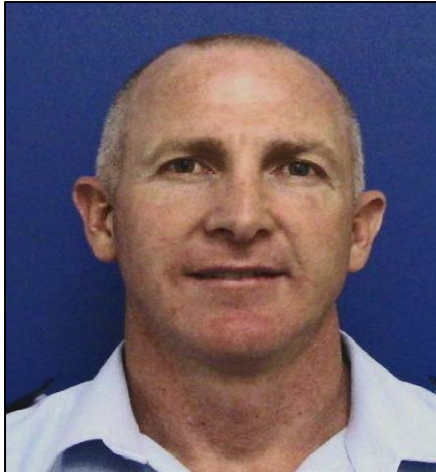
### **Gary Ballard**

**Detective Inspector  
New South Wales (NSW) Police Force**

Gary has been a member of the New South Wales Police Force for the last 26 years and is currently the Crime Manager at the St. George Local Area Command. Gary has participated in the last two National Torch Runs for the Special Olympics in Australia, in 2006 and 2010. His highlights with the Torch Run have included running in the Global Torch Run in Sydney prior to the Shanghai Games, where over 100 Police and athletes ran across the Sydney Harbor Bridge and also being selected to run the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony at the last National Games in Adelaide, South Australia. Gary is currently the Vice President of the New South Wales LETR and has attended two International Conferences in Oklahoma and Connecticut. He loves all sports including, swimming, football, cricket, golf and tennis.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND



**Brett Price**  
Sergeant  
Queensland Police Service

Brett has been an officer with the Queensland Police Service for 24 years. He was the founding President/Director of the LETR Queensland a short 6 years ago and is also representative on the LETR National Committee. Brett has previously been a Final Leg Runner in China and is honored and proud to have been selected by his peers to have the opportunity to have a second chance at a once in a life time experience. Brett is married with a 6 year old daughter who is his best mate, his shadow and Special Olympics partner. Brett's interests are triathlons, Australia Rules football and general fitness as well as encouraging others to participate in a healthy lifestyle.

## AUSTRALIA — SOUTH



**Steve Datson**  
Sergeant  
South Australia Police

Stephen Datson has been a member of the South Australia Police for 34 years. His involvement with Special Olympics began when his own daughter, who has an intellectual disability, began swimming within the program. Since then his involvement has increased to the point where he is on the management committee of both the State body for SO as well as on the local Torch Run program. He has participated as a team support member at two Australian National Games and has enjoyed the experience immensely. His favorite Torch Run memory is running with his daughter Lyndall during the Torch Run for the National Games in his home city Adelaide in April 2010. Within the LETR program in Adelaide, he is the Treasurer and state representative on the LETR National Council. Stephen's favorite pastimes are watching football and cricket.



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA



### **Michael Olsen**

**Senior Sergeant  
Victoria Police**

Michael (Mick) has spent nearly 30 years in the Victoria Police serving in a variety of departments in the country and metropolitan areas. He enjoys remote outback travel and is keenly involved in the local sporting community supporting his 15 year old son's passions of both Rugby and Baseball. Mick became involved in the Special Olympics through his participation in the formation of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in Victoria. Mick was selected to run with SO athletes and the Flame of Hope™ on the hallowed Melbourne Cricket Ground as part of the 2010 Australian Summer Games.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS



### **Larry Hartman Seymour**

**Station Officer  
Cayman Islands Fire Service**

Larry Seymour has been a member of the Cayman Islands Fire Service for 26 years. He is currently a Station Officer on a shift system and in his off time enjoys running, cycling, soccer and reading. Larry is an active volunteer with Special Olympics. Larry is very humbled by involvement in Torch Run. Larry stated that in his first encounter with Special Olympics he fell in love with the athletes, who show a lot of determination in competing in the various sporting event. Larry said; "I was told by my co-worker that I would be hooked after that, but they never told me that I would be hooked for life."

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## CHINESE TAIPEI



**John Lin**  
**Officer**  
**National Police Agency**

John has been an officer with the National Police Agency for three years. He has also been involved in the Torch Run and as a volunteer for Special Olympics Chinese Taipei for the past three years. In 2009, John attended the International Law Enforcement Torch Run® conference which inspired him to greater heights in his Torch Run/Special Olympics volunteerism. John continues to be inspired by the amazing talents of the Special Olympics athletes and he states, "I will always be a fan and support the athletes and Special Olympics!"

## CYPRUS



**Andreas Kyrillou**  
**Senior Sergeant**  
**Cyprus Police Force**

Andreas Kyrillou joined the Cyprus Police Force 33 years ago. His first five years were hard training at the Mobile Immediate Action Unit (M.I.A.U.). He then worked for 18 years in the Central Information Service (C.I.S.) as a Secret Agent. He also worked for five years at the Immigration Department and the last three years he has worked at the Information Team of the Crime Prevention Unit (C.P.U.). Andreas has participated in ten World's Police Marathon Races as a runner in different countries, making lifetime friends! Since 1998, Andreas has been involved with Special Olympics in Cyprus volunteering in any way as well as participating in many Law Enforcement Torch Runs® in Cyprus. Andreas cherishes the memories he has made with the Special Olympics athletes watching their smiles and tears of joy as they compete!

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## CZECH REPUBLIC



**Karel Seidl**  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Czech Criminal Police

Karel Seidl has been a police officer for 17 years, most of the time he has worked for the criminal police of the Czech Republic. He has been involved in Special Olympics and Torch Run since 2000 when he first participated in the European Torch Run in the Netherlands. The event has changed his life in a great and the most positive manner. Helping people who need it is great and has made him a better person. Special Olympics and the Torch Run opened up a new dimension of his life and showed a way to make the world better for everyone. He looks forward to good fun with the team of runners and the very important mission of the Final Leg team.

## ECUADOR



**Nelson Enrique Pozo**  
Colonel  
National Police of Ecuador

Nelson has been a member of the Ecuador National Police for eight years. He has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for the past five years. Nelson enjoys organizing various charity events nationwide. In 2007 he had the honor to be a tennis coach at the International Special Olympics Summer Games in China. During his Torch Run involvement, Nelson has visited with the highest government authorities in seven provinces in Ecuador spreading the message of the Torch Run and Special Olympics in hope of growing the movement in his country.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## GIBRALTAR



**Nicholas Peliza**  
Constable  
Royal Gibraltar Police Force

Nicholas has been a member of the Royal Gibraltar Police Force for four and a half years. During this short span he has been a key member of his shift carrying out duties as the shift motorcyclist. He also spent a short time in the Drug Squad. On his off duty time he likes to spend quality time with his family and new baby daughter Nyela. Nicholas is a passionate Liverpool supporter. This same passion expanded onto the Law Enforcement Torch Run® family which started well before becoming a Police Officer. He is an active volunteer within the Special Olympics throwing his hat into the ring for any event. Nicholas is quoted as saying that, “entering the stadium on the Opening Ceremony with all the Special Olympics athletes, has inspired me to continue in my efforts to promote the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in achieving its purpose in expanding Special Olympics ideology”.

## HONG KONG



**Yiu Fat Lee (Frank)**  
Divisional Officer  
Hong Kong Fire Services

Frank has been serving in Hong Kong Fire Services as physical training officer for enhancing the strength and stamina of his counterparts in coping with strenuous and high demanding fire fighting and rescue job for almost 23 years. Since 1995, he has joined the Hong Kong Law Enforcement Torch Run® for fund raising in supporting our athletes competing at many World Games. He shares the happiness of our athletes’ full dedication to all participating events. It is his honor to represent Special Olympics Hong Kong as the Final Leg runner to participate in such meaningful 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. With his profession, he likes general sports and maintains daily exercises such as jogging, cycling, swimming, weight training and hiking.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## KOREA



**Jonggue Oh**  
**Senior Inspector**  
**Korean National Police Agency**

Jonggue Oh has been serving public citizens as a police officers for 13 years and he is enthusiastic about policing activities. While on duty he is usually concerned about people in trouble and the minority in our society. His long-term goal is to become a senior leader in an international organization like the UN for the purpose of caring for people in need all over the world. As he was aware of the meaning and spirit of Special Olympics, he strongly wanted to participate in the Final Leg Torch Run event. Through his opportunity of participating in the Final Leg, he will certainly become a more dedicated police officer for the minority groups in our society.

## LATVIA



**Jurijs Misjuns**  
**Inspector of Public Order**  
**State Police of Latvia—Latgale Region**

Jurijs Misjuns is 27 years old and resides in Daugavpils, Latvia. He has been a member of the Latvian Police Service for nine years and currently works as a crime investigator. He participated in the Torch Run in 2003 when the Final Leg pass through Riga, Latvia and also in the 2010 Final Leg Torch Run for the European Summer Games in Warsaw. Jurijs' hobbies include running, swimming, basketball and traveling. He loves to participate in adventure sports. Jurijs has been the National Police Champion three times and the Latvian Champion in the 3000 steeplechase running. He was awarded four medals for representing Latvia at different competitions including World Police cross-country and European cross-country championships. He was awarded a silver medal in the first Strongman run in Latvia in 2010.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## MALTA



### **Andrew Grech**

**Constable  
Malta Police Force**

The Torch Run is starting officially in Malta this year and Andrew is excited to be a part of it. He looks forward to being involved in all sporting, fundraising and awareness campaigns and participating in their inaugural Torch Run on May 11, 2011. Andrew has already witnessed the amazing abilities of Special Olympics athletes in Malta and looks forward to the Torch Run being able to create more opportunities for the athletes through funding and awareness.

## NETHERLANDS



### **Jan Branderhorst**

**Team Leader—Criminal Investigations  
Rotterdam Police Department**

Jan Branderhorst has been a police officer for 33 years. After working in the city of Amsterdam he now is a team leader at the Regional Criminal Investigation Department of the city of Rotterdam. In his off duty time he enjoyed playing basketball, but as he is getting older he has changed to playing tennis and running. After a congress of the IACP in 1996, Jan and three colleagues started a National Torch Run program in the Netherlands.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## NEW ZEALAND



**Mark Harrison**  
**Inspector—Area Commander**  
**New Zealand Police**

Mark has been a member of the New Zealand Police for 27 years and Area Commander for a large rural policing area for the last five years. The New Zealand LETR program has recently been established and was set up after a Torch Run was held throughout parts of New Zealand prior to the 2009 National Summer Games. Mark was Sports Director for these Games hence his involvement in both Special Olympics and LETR. Mark says that watching the athletes take part in the Torch Run and the look of absolute joy on their faces during the recent Summer Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies makes all of the efforts worthwhile. He says that the approach Special Olympics athletes take to the sports and their attitude is an example to all.

## NORTHERN IRELAND



**David Smith**  
**Constable**  
**Police Service of Northern Ireland**

David has been a Police Officer for 19 years and is currently working in the Armagh area of the province. David got involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® when it first came to Northern Ireland in the mid 1990's and got hooked! He has spent a lot of time visiting a range of special needs groups and schools delivering personal safety information. David is quoted to say "I got involved to give what I could but little did I realize that what I would get back in return would be so much more." His proudest moment in Special Olympics was carrying the torch along with an athlete into the Opening Ceremony of the Ireland Games in 2010. David is married to Linda and has two children Joel and Leah. He enjoys art, hiking and walking the family Bulldog, Bella.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## PARAGUAY



### **Wilfrido Almada**

**Director, School of Physical Education  
National Police of Paraguay**

Commissioner Wilfrido Almada got involved in Special Olympics Paraguay as a Judge at competitions because of his position of being the Director of the School of Physical Education of the National Police. In 2007, Wilfrido took part in Torch Run training in Valencia, Venezuela during the South American Special Olympics Football Tournament. Wilfrido then organized and coordinated three Torch Runs in Paraguay. In 2008, Wilfrido attended the International Conference of the Torch Run in Dallas, Texas and in the Global Torch Run for the World Winter Games of Idaho that stopped in Costa Rica. He also participated in the Torch Run for Latin American Special Olympics Games in Puerto Rico 2010. Wilfrido gets great satisfaction and is very proud of his volunteer efforts on behalf of Special Olympics.

## PORTUGAL



### **Gonçalo Simões**

**Chief  
Tomar City Police Division**

Since 2010, Gonçalo Simões has been the head of the Tomar City Police Division. He also has worked as a bomb technician, at the Police Special Unit for seven years. In his off time enjoys playing indoor soccer, listening to music, driving his ATV and fishing. Gonçalo has been a member of the Portuguese Torch Run Committee since 2009 and attended the Lisbon Torch Run in the Special Olympics European 7-a-Side Football Tournament. He also was in Gibraltar to assist with the local Torch Run Committee in their Special Olympics Games and last year he participated in the Legacy and Development Conference in Dublin. During this three years of his involvement, Gonçalo has recognized in the Special Olympics athletes oath his own way of living his life, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## POLAND



### **Jacek Hachulski**

**Lieutenant Colonel  
Police Training Center**

Jacek Hachulski has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for the past 17 years and is presently a member of the Torch Run Executive Council representing Europe/Eurasia. Jacek is a Final Leg veteran and was an inductee into the Richard LaMunyon Law Enforcement Torch Run® Hall of Fame in 2000. Jacek first represented Poland in the 1993 Final Leg in Austria and still cherishes meeting the Polish Special Olympics athletes during the Opening Ceremonies of those Games. Jacek continues his involvement with athletes, which lets him feel useful and needed by someone outside of his family. He believes it is our duty to protect and assist people, particularly those in need. That is why he became a police officer and a member of the Torch Run.

## TAJIKISTAN



### **Mirsaidov Suhrobjon**

**Chief**

Mirsaidov is proud to be a member of the 2011 Athens Final Leg team. He is excited about learn more about the Law Enforcement Torch Run®, especially at the international level. He looks forward to meeting his teammates from around the world and helping to spread awareness for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## SAMOA



**Logoitino Filipo**  
**Inspector**  
**Samoa Ministry of Police & Prisons**

Logoitino Filipo has been a sworn member of the Samoa Ministry of Police & Prisons for 13 years. He is currently the Staff Officer to the Commissioner and also a Deputy Project Manager to the Samoa Australia Police Project. Inspector Filipo was the leader of a team of Samoan Police Officers to carry out the first ever Law Enforcement Torch Run® prior to the National Games last year. The event was quite a success with lots of fond memories. As a result of the Torch Run Logoitino is now a board member with Special Olympics Samoa and has provided assistance to SOS ever since. He is delighted and honored for being selected to represent Samoa Police in the 2011 Final Leg team. Logoitino is a Deacon for the Congregational Christian Church in his home village of Vaimoso. He is married to Peta Filipo and has four children. His hobbies including touch rugby, swimming, fishing and like to watch all sorts of rugby games on TV.

## SERBIA



**Damir Davidovic**  
**Police Officer**  
**City of Belgrade Police Directorate**

Damir lives in Pancevo, Republic of Serbia. He is 25 and single. He graduated from the police academy which lasted four years and has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® and Special Olympics for the past year. Damir participated in the European Final Leg Torch Run last year and is excited to be a part of the Final Leg team for the Special Olympics World Games in Athens. He believes that this will be an unforgettable experience for him. Damir's interest include reading, running, orienteering, swimming and judo. He has participated in several half-marathons as well as Judo competitions. Damir currently works in the Police Directorate of City of Belgrade as an assistant to the Commander.

# FINAL LEG RUNNERS

## TURKEY



### Orhan Sinav

**Chief Inspector  
Istanbul Police**

Orhan Sinav has been a member of the İstanbul Police for 13 years. His involvement with the Torch Run began 5 years ago. Orhan is an active volunteer who works hard promoting the Torch Run in his country. He also participates in other organizations in Istanbul that assist individuals with intellectual disabilities. Orhan is very sociable, charitable and positive in his character and he is always in touch with his colleagues who support Torch Run all over the world. Orhan remembers his favorite Torch Run memory when he and his Torch Run friend and colleague Bill Buford took a Special Olympics athlete by the hand as they carried the Flame of Hope together. Orhan wept for joy when the athlete smiled and hugged him. Orhan has two master's degree and he is humble and is "full of beans." He is married and he has two children, Serra, 6, and Hakan, 3 months.



# FINAL LEG RUNNING TEAM LEADERS

## ARKANSAS, USA



### **Bill Buford**

**Bomb Squad Commander (retired)  
Arkansas State Police**

Bill retired from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives with 31 years service. He went to work for the Arkansas State Police as the Bomb Squad Commander and retired from that position in January 2011. Bill has been the Director of the Arkansas LETR for 17 of its 25 years. He has been a member of the International Torch Run Council for many years and serves as the Chairman of the International Expansion Committee. Bill has been involved as a volunteer at numerous Special Olympics events worldwide and has participated in many Unified Sports events.

## NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA



### **Helen Burns**

**Fitness and Lifestyle Advisor  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

Helen has been involved with the Torch Run and Special Olympics program in her community for the past 14 years. She is currently the Director of her Provincial LETR program and a lifetime volunteer and partner with Special Olympics. She has had the great privilege and honor to serve as a final leg runner and running team leader in numerous Provincial, National and World Games since 1996. Helen is looking forward to the opportunity to participate and serve with so many committed law enforcement personnel, volunteers, and most of all the athletes in the upcoming 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. She extends a thank you to the Special Olympic athletes “for in having partnered with you in many activities and events, and with the establishment of the many great friendships over the years, you have enriched her life.”

# FINAL LEG RUNNING TEAM LEADERS

## MONTANA, USA



**Jason Johnson**  
**Detective**  
**Missoula County Sheriff's Office**

Jason has been involved with the Torch Run since 1999. In that time he has served as a runner, leg leader, Montana Regional Coordinator and Special Event Coordinator. Jason currently serves as the Assistant Director for LETR MT and sits on the International Executive Council as the Region 8 Coordinator and Chairman of the Regional Coordinator Committee. Jason was on the Final Leg team in Japan and a Running Team Leader for the first USA National Final Leg in Iowa. Jason has been married to his wife Angela for 15 years and they adore their two children, Breanna 13 and Cole 9. Jason has said, "I am proud to raise my children in a home where service to others is a priority. I am forever indebted to Special Olympics athletes and their families for greatly enriching my life".

## ALBERTA, CANADA



**Paul Manuel**  
**A/Superintendent**  
**Calgary Police Service**

Paul has been a police officer for 34 years and has been involved in the Torch Run since 1989 when he participated in his first run. Since that time, Paul has been active in runs and fundraising events in his home program and is now the Coordinator for Region XI on the International Torch Run Executive Council. Paul's favorite Torch Run memories are the World Games Final Legs he has participated in. On these runs he has met hundreds of athletes across many nations and despite language and cultural barriers, we're able to share their love for Special Olympics and Torch Run. Paul is active with Special Olympics programs and volunteers as the Head Coach in power lifting. Paul believes he is a better person and a better police officer as a result of his involvement with Torch Run and Special Olympics and is looking forward to the Final Leg in Greece and once again meeting athletes and police officers from around the world.

# FINAL LEG RUNNING TEAM LEADERS

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, USA



### **Mike Peretti**

**Lieutenant  
Livermore Police Department**

Lieutenant Mike Peretti is a thirty year law enforcement veteran. Currently a patrol watch commander with the Livermore Police Department in Northern California, Mike's career highlights include a twenty year attachment to the tactical operations unit, and assignments to traffic, criminal investigations, and patrol. Mike has also spent twenty-two years teaching criminal justice courses at the regional academy and local university. A Torch Runner since 1998, Mike has served as his agency's coordinator, a member of the Northern California LETR Executive Committee, and has been a member of the LETR International Executive Council since 2003 where he currently serves as Chair of the Executive Council. "The Torch Run reminds me everyday why I became an officer", says Mike. "The Torch Run changes lives, and has certainly changed mine. Keep the Flame Burning Bright!"

## CONNECTICUT, USA



### **Luis Rosa**

**Sergeant  
Connecticut State Police**

Luis began his career with the Connecticut State Police in 1989, along with his involvement with Special Olympics. In 2003, Luis was selected for the Torch Run Executive Committee as the State Police Coordinator. He also participated as a 2003 Final Leg runner from Athens, to Dublin, Ireland. Luis has been the Connecticut Executive Torch Run Director since 2005. In February 2010, San Juan, PR hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Olympics Latin American Games where Luis assisted and participated in the LETR Final Leg. In July 2010, Luis was assigned as a Final Leg Team Running Leader in Nebraska. Luis is presently on the Torch Run Executive Council and on the International Conference Planning Committee. His proudest experience thus far is being a unified partner participating directly with his heroes, the athletes. Keep Running...Keep Believing...Keep Inspiring...

# FINAL LEG RUNNING TEAM LEADERS

## ILLINOIS, USA



**Tom Reasoner**  
**Deputy Director**  
**North East Multi-Regional Training**

Tom has been a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run® for 24 years, starting as a runner on his local leg, becoming a State Committee member, and for the last 15 years serving as the states Assistant Torch Run Director. He has participated in numerous events from polar plunges, Cop on Top and Plane Pulls and three prior Final Legs. Tom considers that his proudest moments with Special Olympics are when he is playing golf with his unified partner. They have competed together in many state competitions and two USA National Games winning gold and silver medals. “It is fun to win medals” he states, but the greater joy is the smiles and happiness he sees in faces of the athletes and their families.

## MINNESOTA, USA



**Chief Rodney Seurer**  
**Chief**  
**Savage Police Department**

Chief Rodney Seurer has been a Guardian of the Flame™ for more than 23 years. He began his volunteer work as the North Carolina Torch Run Coordinator for the Durham Police Department in 1988 and in 2001 upon moving to Minnesota he was appointed Minnesota Torch Run Director. Celebrating their 25th Anniversary, MN LETR has raised over \$2 million dollars for the Special Olympics Minnesota program. Chief Seurer has taken part in previous Final Legs as a Support Team Member and Running Team Leader. He was honored in 2004 by SO Minnesota Athletes as the Law Enforcement Volunteer of the Year and was inducted into the LETR Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame in 2009. Rodney has served on the International Conference Planning Committee since 2005 and was appointed to the International LETR Council in 2007. His brother Aaron has been competing in Special Olympics for the past 25 years. His wife Darlene and his daughters have been involved with Special Olympics & LETR events for a long time and have enjoyed every minute, of every event.

# FINAL LEG RUNNING TEAM LEADERS

## AUSTRALIA



### **Don Stuart**

**Senior Sergeant**

**New South Wales (NSW) Police Force**

Don Stuart has been a member of the NSW Police Force for 26 years. He has been involved with Torch Run since 2003 and was the first Torch Run Director in Australia. In 2005, he was selected as the Australian Torch Runner for the Winter Games Final Leg in Japan. Don coordinated the 2006 and 2010 Australian Summer Games Final Legs as well as the 2007 Global Final Leg in Sydney. He serves on the LETR International Executive Council as Region XIV (Oceania) Region Coordinator and is currently the Chairman of the Awards Committee. Don is the NSW Torch Run Coordinator and just loves being a Guardian of the Flame and more importantly, seeing the Special Olympic athletes smiles as they run with the Flame of Hope. Don is married, his wife Lori is originally from Southern California.

## HAWAII, USA



### **Antonio Williams**

**Deputy Chief**

**U.S. Army Garrison**

Antonio has been in law enforcement for 26 years, first as a military police officer (MP) with the U.S. Army and, now, as the Deputy Chief of Police for U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii. He became an MP because he knew he wanted to help people. It is that same sense of service that drives him to participate in the Torch Run. He became involved with Special Olympics by running in the Law Enforcement Torch Run®. Now he's a softball and bocce coach, and an avid fundraiser through annual Cop on Top, Tip a Cop, Fueling Dreams, and Polar Plunge events. He is also a member of the SOHI Executive Committee and the LETR Executive Council. While he's a dedicated and successful fundraiser, Antonio's greatest contribution to Special Olympics is his ability to raise awareness by encouraging volunteerism and leading others to see the important value of the organization's mission.



# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## MISSOURI, USA



**Rich Banahan**  
Chief of Police  
St. Louis Community College

Rich Banahan has been the Chief of Police at St. Louis Community College for the past ten years and is a retired twenty-three year sergeant with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Rich has been involved in the LETR for 22 years as a runner, state board member, state director and past Region IV coordinator on the Torch Run Executive Council. On the state level he has assisted in the department trivia night for the past 16 years and is a member of the Special Olympics Missouri Resource Development Team. Rich has been a member of seven Final Leg Teams.

## CONNECTICUT, USA



**Joe Carlone**  
Captain  
Department of Correction

Joseph Carlone has been with the Department of Correction for twenty years. He is currently a Captain assigned as the Executive Officer for the Tactical Units. In his spare time he enjoys camping with his family and spending time in the gym. Joe is an active volunteer who participates and supports several Special Olympics events such as penguin plunges, Summer Games and others. Joe is currently the Assistant Torch Run Director, and has been involved with Torch Run for over twenty years. Joe is not just involved with Special Olympics, he lives it every day. Along with Joe and his wife, who works for Special Olympics, his daughter and son are huge volunteers and passionate about the athletes they support.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**Rich Fernandez**  
**Asst. VP—LETR Development**  
**Special Olympics Southern California**

Richard Fernandez is the development officer for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® program for Southern California. Rich has seen the passion, dedication and commitment that Law Enforcement has shown to benefit Special Olympics Southern California athletes. He has seen significant growth in the number of officers who volunteer, and the interaction with the athletes is his inspiration to continue to build the LETR program. This is his second stint as a support team member having served last year at the USA National Games in Nebraska. Rich has been with Special Olympics Southern California since 2005 and prior to that was employed in the private sector and collegiate athletics with a specialty in marketing, development, and fiscal management and client relations. He currently resides in Long Beach, California.

## NORTH CAROLINA, USA



**Roy Forrest**  
**Captain (retired)**  
**Guilford County Sheriff's Office**

Roy was a law enforcement officer for thirty years before his retirement in 2004. He has been involved in the Torch Run for twenty one years and served as his department's coordinator. During that time his department raised more than \$500,000 for Special Olympics. Roy has served on his state Torch Run Committee, and currently serves on the International Torch Run Council. In 2000 he was inducted into the International Torch Run Hall of Fame, and in 2005 he was inducted into the North Carolina Torch Run Hall of Fame. No His greatest Torch Run memory is carrying the torch into the stadium for the 1999 World Summer Games in North Carolina. He has served as a Running Team Leader in Alaska, Ireland, Japan, China, Idaho, and Nebraska.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## IDAHO, USA



**Jim Kerns**  
**Deputy Chief**  
**Boise Police Department**

Deputy Chief Jim Kerns is a 29-year veteran of the Boise Police Department. During this time Jim has immersed himself into many community wide events. However, no event or activity has captured his heart like that of the Special Olympics. Jim's involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run began eight years ago when he did a Tip a Cop event at Red Lobster. Jim really got hooked when he helped at the Idaho Summer and Winter Special Olympics Games. Jim has made many new friends that are Special Olympic athletes and he holds them in highest regard. Deputy Chief Kerns proudest moment was leading the Final Leg planning team for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Idaho. Deputy Chief Kerns will retire in July 2011 and will enter into the teaching field. He plans to stay active in Special Olympics LETR.

## NORTH CAROLINA, USA

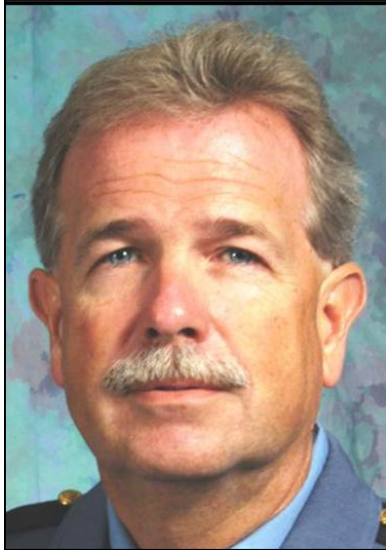


**Tommy Newman**  
**Sergeant**  
**Raleigh Police Department**

Tommy Newman is a 27 year veteran of the Raleigh Police Department. Tommy has been involved in the Torch Run and Special Olympics since the early 1990's. He is involved on the local state and international level. He has served as his Department's coordinator for the past eight years and he serves on the State Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee. Tommy volunteers for local events as well. He was the 2011 inductee into the NC Torch Run Hall of Fame. "I get excited every time I have a chance to interact with the athlete, they really brighten my day and help keep life in the proper perspective." This will be the 4th Final Leg that Tommy has participated in.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## MARYLAND, USA



### **John Newnan**

**Captain**

**Howard County Police Department**

John has been involved in the Torch Run since the inaugural Torch Run in Maryland in 1986. He has served as his agency coordinator, county coordinator, and has been the MD LETR Director since 1999. He is a Final Leg veteran and serves on the Torch Run Executive Council as the Region II Coordinator. John was honored in 2005 to be inducted into the Richard LaMunyon International LETR Hall of Fame. He is especially proud that his Torch Run efforts involve his entire family, his wife Kathy, son Ryan, daughter Jessica, and daughter-in-law, Ashley who works for Special Olympics Maryland as their volunteer coordinator. In 2008, John's son Ryan, helped introduce the Torch Run and Polar Plunging in the Middle East while serving a tour of duty in Mosul, Iraq as an Infantry LT/Platoon leader in the U.S. Army. While in Mosul, Iraq, Ryan put together a Polar Plunge® (with 700 bags of ice!) in a combat zone raising over \$6000 to benefit Special Olympics back home. John's daughter Jessica, is a 1st grade Special Education teacher and an avid supporter of Special Olympics. John and Kathy recently became grandparents and are thoroughly enjoying that new chapter in life!

## ARIZONA, USA



### **Ruth Sanchez**

**Director of LETR**

**Special Olympics Arizona**

Ruth Sanchez is no stranger to Special Olympics as she is the proud mother of Jake Sanchez (29), a Special Olympics Athlete. Ruth and her family have been involved in Special Olympics since Jake was 10 in different capacities; parent, donor, volunteer, etc. She left corporate America to follow her dream to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities and has been with Special Olympics Arizona as the Director of the AZ LETR Program since 2008. Her passion for LETR went into overdrive after running in the 2009 Global Law Enforcement Torch Run® in Los Angeles. Ruth doesn't see boundaries or differences between individuals with intellectual disabilities but observes a very close knit bond of brotherhood between Special Olympics athletes and law enforcement officers that mere words cannot describe. She still gets goose bumps when the "Eye of Tiger" starts to play launching the annual Final Torch Run as Guardians of the Flame and Athletes run onto the track at Mesa Community College stadium during Opening Ceremonies for the Summers Games.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## MARYLAND, USA



**Jeff Spaulding**  
**Chief**  
**Westminster Police Department**

Jeff Spaulding has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for more than 25 years, starting first as a local Torch Runner and medal presenter, then becoming more involved within his Department, his County and now serving as the Central Region Coordinator for Maryland. His "ah ha" Torch Run experience occurred when he had the privilege of rooming with Special Olympics athlete Chris Perrault from Connecticut for 12-days during the 2005 Final Leg in Nagano Japan. When not sitting on a Dunkin Donuts or jumping into freezing water to raise money for Special Olympics, Jeff can be found fishing, golfing (badly) or riding his "Fat Boy" Harley.

## MISSOURI, USA



**Susan Stegeman**  
**Chief Development Officer**  
**Special Olympics Missouri**

Stegeman has been on staff at Special Olympics Missouri since 1990. For ten years she focused exclusively on the Law Enforcement Torch Run® and worked with Missouri's law enforcement community to grow it to a consistent \$1 million program presently ranking #6 in the world. She served for six years on the International Torch Run Executive Council co-chairing the Marketing & Development Committee. In 2006 she assumed the position of Chief Development Officer for SOMO. Stegeman was inducted into the Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame in 2007. She continues to focus on LETR initiatives with emphasis given to 13 Polar Plunges and their 2<sup>nd</sup> signature event, Over the Edge. Stegeman has been married for 18 years to Steve and they are enjoying raising two sons, Scott (15) and Seth (13).

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

## IOWA, USA



**Kris Weitzell**  
**Assistant Deputy Director**  
**Iowa Department of Corrections**

Kris has been with the Iowa Department of Corrections for 27 years. Thirteen of those years has been devoted to the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics serving as Director for the past four years. Kris is involved with the Torch Run, Polar Plunge, Truck Convoy, Cop on Top and many correctional events. Kris returns as a Final Leg veteran having been a member of the Support Team for the 2006 USA National Games Final Leg in Iowa, 2007 World Summer Games Final Leg in China and 2009 World Winter Games Final Leg in Idaho. Kris is married to Mark and they have a daughter Jordan and a son Justin. Being a part of LETR has been an awesome experience for our family. Events are a great time for the family to be together and to fundraise for Special Olympics and the athletes. Kris states, "Every event has a memory so it is always hard to name one specific memory." Kris is involved with Special Olympics because, "It Is The Right Thing To Do."

# FINAL LEG DOCUMENTATION TEAM

## IDAHO, USA



**Shawn Byrne**  
**Sergeant**  
**Oklahoma City Police Department**

Shawn began his law enforcement career in 2002 with OCPD. He is currently assigned to his departments video unit where he handles all of the departments video and graphics needs. Shawn's involvement in Special Olympics and LETR began at a young age in 1992 when his father (Capt. Patrick Byrne) started their departments LETR golf tournament. Once he joined OCPD he became heavily involved in his department's fundraising efforts for Special Olympics and now serves on the Oklahoma LETR Executive Board as Treasurer. Shawn helped plan and chair several events during the 2007 International LETR Conference in Oklahoma City.

# FINAL LEG DOCUMENTATION TEAM

## IDAHO, USA



### **Andrea Kramer**

Andrea started her law enforcement career as a dispatcher for Boundary County Sheriffs Office and went on to become a Sheriff's Deputy and Narcotics Officer for Bonner County Sheriffs Office. She was also a State Dispatch Instructor and EMT Instructor for ten years. Andrea left law enforcement after eleven years and owns and operates a professional photography business, Stampede Lake Photography Studio with her husband David. Andrea's first Torch Run was in 1986 and participated in numerous local Torch Runs and worked with Special Olympics on a local level as well. Andrea has been involved with the Final Leg since 2009 at the Winter World Games in Idaho. Her number one passion....photography...creating an emotion through photos!. Andrea and her husband David live in the beautiful Panhandle of North Idaho with their black lab Magnum and lead a very active life.

## IDAHO, USA



### **Dave Kramer**

**Chief (retired)  
Bonners Ferry Police Department**

Dave retired as Police Chief in Bonners Ferry Idaho with over 30 years experience, the last 20 years as Police Chief. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (#199), and has served as President of the Montana/Idaho FBI National Academy Associates, and as President of the Idaho Chiefs of Police. Currently he works at the North Idaho Police Academy and teaches Criminal Justice classes at North Idaho College. He has been an active participant of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics on a local level and as part of the running team at the 1993 International Torch Run in Austria, as a Running Team Leader in Idaho in the Idaho Final Leg in 2009, and as a photographer during the 2010 USA National Games Final Leg in Nebraska in 2010. Dave and his wife Andrea own and operate Stampede Lake Studio, a professional photography business.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



**Stelios Konstantinidis**  
**Greece GOC**  
**Final Leg Manager**

Stelios has been involved with big athletic events for many years. His proudest achievement is working as an Executive Assistant of the President in the Olympic Games of Athens 2004. From this executive position, he actively participated in top-level decision-making and enjoyed this unique experience for him and his country. The Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® is another opportunity to be actively involved in a very important event and meet people from all over the world. His goal is that with his assistance and help that this will be a wonderful celebration of the human spirit and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



**Alexandros Avramidis**  
**Police Sergeant**  
**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Avramidis Alexandros has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 15 years and he is a brilliant volleyball player. In his time off he enjoys playing volleyball and listening to music. Alexandros is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



**Georgios Barbas**  
**Police Constable**  
**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Georgios Barbas has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 11 years and he is a brilliant soccer player. In his time off he enjoys playing soccer and watching movies at the cinema. Georgios is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



**Efthymia Chronopoulou-Siapika**  
**Greece GOC**

Efthymia was born in Athens and has studied Agriculture Industry and Environmental Planning. During the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004, she participated as a volunteer in the Venue Management Team of the Olympic Stadium. As a member and subsequently president of the NGO AEGEE-Peiraias, during the past four years, she has volunteered her time helping in homeless shelters and she tries to get involved in anything that has to do with the welfare of children. Being involved in Special Olympics in her home country is a dream come true for her.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



**Maria Eleftheriou**  
Greece GOC

Maria was born and raised in Athens Greece. In college she studied industrial product design. Maria enjoys being involved in many kinds of charity actions, fundraising and participating in any way to assist those in need. During the Athens 2004 Olympic Games she was an assistant venue protocol director for water sports. Maria states “participating in the 2011 Final Leg is a great opportunity for all of us to embrace each other unconditionally.”



**Panagiotis Exarchos**  
Greece GOC

Panagiotis Exarchos is a television writer having scripted quite a few successful TV comedies for Greek Television. He is a strong supporter of numerous causes and is especially passionate about anything involving children or animal abuse. He frequently volunteers in projects about under-privileged children and donates time and work to animal shelters. The 2011 Special Olympics Games being held in Athens present a wonderful opportunity for him to be actively involved in something he strongly supports and believes in and help make these Games special and memorable for all the wonderful athletes who will participate and everyone else involved.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



**Nikolaos Grigoriadis**  
**Police Sergeant**  
**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Nikolaos Grigoriadis has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 20 years and he is a brilliant soccer player. In his time off he enjoys playing soccer and ping pong. He is married and father of a boy, 11 years old. Nikolaos is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



**Alex Kappis**  
**Captain**  
**Hellenic Police**

Alexandros Kappis joined the Police Service almost 26 years ago. For the past few years he has served as a Computer Systems Programmer for the Department of Informatics of the Hellenic Police HQ in Athens. In the past he had the opportunity to participate in the 2003 Dublin World Summer Games Final Leg, the 2006 European Games Final Leg and the 2007 Shanghai World Summer Games Final Leg as a Torch Runner, as well as the 2009 Idaho World Winter Games Final Leg as a Support Team member. He considers himself very fortunate for having experienced these life-time events and he is looking forward to getting involved in the 2011 Athens World Summer Games, hosted by the city he currently lives in. Still single, he has strong bonds with his parental family and in his off duty time he participates in sports such as mountain biking, snowboarding, skiing and other outdoors. Alexandros loves to travel and he enjoys reading and studying.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



## **Dimitrios Karpathakis**

**Police Constable  
Aliens Division of Attica**

Karpathakis Dimitrios has been member of Aliens Division of Attica for 9 years. In his time off he enjoys practicing Tae kwon do and sports in general. Dimitrios is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



## **Dimitris Kokkalakis**

**Police Major  
Department of Informatics, Hellenic Police**

Dimitris Kokkalakis has served with the Hellenic Police since 2003. He currently works as Technical IT Leader to the IT Department of the Hellenic Police. In his prior position in the private sector, he was working as technical consultant at HP. In his free time he enjoys practicing martial arts, running long distances, bicycling and playing with his two sons, who are four and six years old. In July 2007, Dimitris was one of the Torch Runners who escorted the Flame of Hope™ on its journey from the lighting ceremony on the hill of Pnyx in Athens to Beijing, China. He also participated as the Greek Representative in Idaho's Winter Special Olympics Games in 2009.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



## **Stamatios Kolethras**

**Police Sergeant**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Stamatios has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 21 years and he is a very good athlete in boxing. In his time off he enjoys participating in sports in general. Stamatios was member of the organization of the Torch Run in the Olympic Games of Athens in 2004 and he is very humbled by his involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run®.



## **Parthena Nikolaidou**

**Police Sergeant**

**Service of the Physical Training & Athletics**

Parthena Nikolaidou has been a member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 13 years. She is a brilliant basketball player and in her time off she enjoys participating in sports in general. Parthena is very humbled by her involvement in the Torch Run.

# FINAL LEG SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS GREECE



**Panagiotis Perimenis**  
Greece GOC

Panagiotis was born in Athens Greece, studied marketing and worked for several years in the maritime industry as a sales and marketing executive. During the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, he was Venue Manager of the Port of Piraeus. He was also actively involved in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. He is actively involved in many causes and has been a strong supporter of the Special Olympics movement for many years.



**Ioannis Vangelis**  
Police Sergeant  
Service of the Physical Training & Athletics

Ioannis Vangelis has been member of the Service of Physical Training and Athletics for 15 years and he is a brilliant volleyball player. In his time off he enjoys playing volleyball and swimming. Ioannis is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.

# GREECE POLICE ESCORT LIAISONS



## **Pantelis Kounelakis**

**Colonel  
Hellenic Police**

Pantelis Kounelakis has been working as a policeman for 27 years. He is currently a Colonel at the Crisis Management Division (Deputy Manager) at the Headquarter Hellenic Police. He also took part in the 2004 Olympics Games as a head planner for the security measures for the VIP's and athlete teams. In his free time Pantelis likes playing football with his 11 years old son and he travels a lot. It's his first time to participate in the Torch Run and he hopes it to be a great experience.



## **Panagiotis Marketakis**

**Lieutenant Colonel**

Panagiotis Marketakis has been working as a policeman for 27 years. he is currently a Police Lieutenant Colonel, commander of 1st police Station at Perisreri-Athens. He also took part in the "Athens 2004 Olympic Games" as a member of the traffic security department. In his free time Panagiotis likes reading and travels a lot. It's his first time to participate in a Law Enforcement Torch Run® event and he looks forward to the experience.

## GREECE POLICE ESCORT LIAISONS



**Dimitrios Stavropoulos**  
**Major**  
**General Directorate for VIP Protection**

Dimitrios Stavropoulos has been working as a policeman for 26 years. He is currently a Major at General Directorate for VIP Protection. He also took part in the 2004 Olympic Games as a security chief. In his free time Dimitrios likes playing basketball with his 12 year old son and diving in the beautiful seas of Greece. He also enjoys jogging and mountain cycling. He believes working in the police department is hard and demanding work which doesn't allow people to show feelings or be sensitive, so he's proud to help in the Final Leg Torch Run. It's his first time to participate in the event and he hopes to be a great experience.

## GREECE POLICE LIAISON DRIVERS



**Panteleimon Amerikanos**  
**Police Warrant Officer**  
**Special Crime Violent Division**

Panteleimon Amerikanos has been member of Special Crime Violent Division for 13 years. He is single and in his time off he enjoys playing soccer and sports in general. Panteleimon is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



# GREECE POLICE LIAISON DRIVERS



## Efstathios Barekas

**Police Sergeant  
Officials Protection Directorate**

Efstathios Barekas joined the police service 13 years ago and has been serving as a Police Sergeant in the Officials Protection Directorate in Athens for more than 10 years. Efstathios is very humbled by his involvement in the Torch Run.



**Up in the morning to the Torch Run sun,  
We're going to run all day until the running's done!**



The Emblem of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 is a radiant sun, the source of life that underlines the excellence and power of the athlete that takes part in the Games. Excellence is depicted in the olive branch and power in the spiral form in the center of the sun. The colors reflect the Greek landscape and project emotions like passion for life in the warm red, optimism in the orange, determination in the blue, freedom in the light blue and hope in the green.

# TORCH RUN

# CADENCES

*Every where we go,  
People want to know,  
Who we are,  
So we tell them,  
We are the Torch Run,  
Mighty, mighty Torch Run,  
Special Olympics Torch Run,  
Law Enforcement Torch Run®,  
Final Leg Torch Run,  
World-wide Torch Run,  
Torch Run,  
Torch Run,  
Torch Run.*

*Torch Run Torch Run where you been,  
All around the world and we're going again,  
Torch Run Torch Run where you been,  
All around Greece and going again,  
Torch Run Torch Run where you been,*

*Repeat using different countries cities, & towns*

*Torch Run, Torch Run running proud,  
Torch Run Torch Run say it loud,  
Torch Run Torch Run full of Pride,  
Running with the athletes by our side.  
Torch Run Torch Run running hard,  
We are flame's honor guard,  
Torch Run, Torch Run know our name,  
We are the Guardians of the Flame™.*

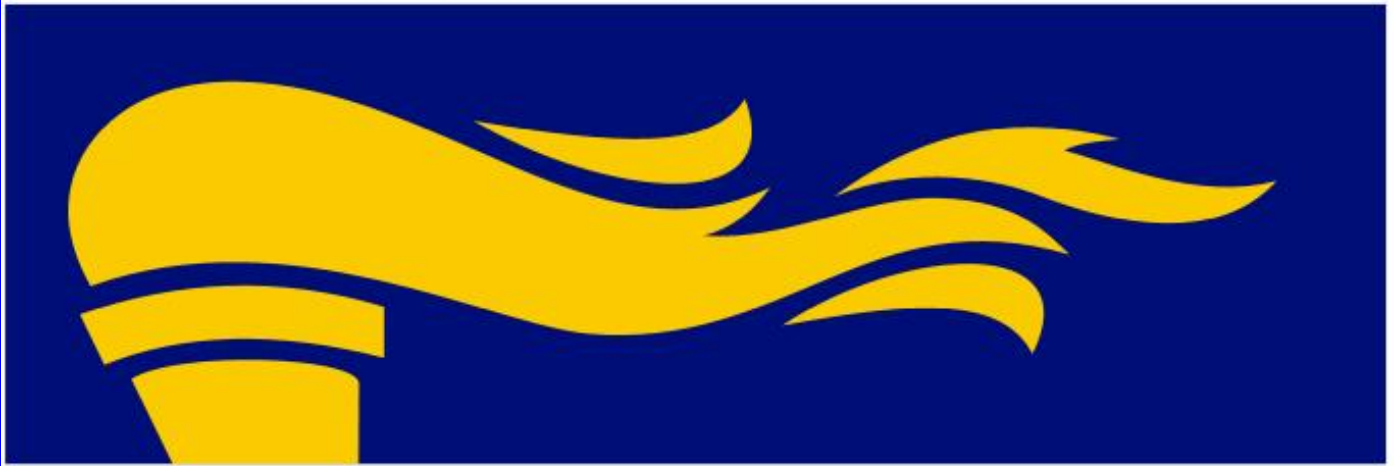


# Torch Run, Torch Run, Torch Run!!!

*Up in the morning to the Torch Run sun,  
We're going to run all day until the running is done,  
The Flame of Hope™ we carry in hand,  
We're going to run this flame across the land,  
Together we run side by side,  
Led by an athlete who gives us pride,  
Across this land we're going to carry this flame,  
All the way to Athens to the World Games.*



# FINAL LEG



L A W   E N F O R C E M E N T

# TORCH RUN®

F O R   S P E C I A L   O L Y M P I C S

## 2011 WORLD SUMMER GAMES

# ATHENS, GREECE

*Helping to spread the word of respect, dignity, acceptance, and inclusion, one step at a time!*