



Special Olympics

New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Doreen Pustizzi
Senior Director, Communications
609-896-8000 ext. 274
dlp@sonj.org

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LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PARTICIPATES IN 2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES' TORCH RUN FINAL LEG

William Zika from Hillsdale chosen to carry the Flame of Hope into Lincoln, NE.

LAWRENCEVILLE — Lieutenant William Zika of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police department is currently in Nebraska participating in 2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Final Leg, which precedes the Special Olympics USA National Games being held in Lincoln, Nebraska July 18-23.

“Congratulations are in order for these incredible athletes and dedicated law enforcement officers,” said Mike Teem, Final Leg Team Captain. “The LETR Final Leg is not only a salute to the athletes from around the United States who compete in the Special Olympics USA National Games, but also a true honor for the participating officers who all believe in the mission and spirit of Special Olympics.”

Zika, who resides in Hillsdale, has been with the Port Authority PD since 1985, which also marked the first year he participated in the Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey. For the past 20 years he has also been on the state Torch Run committee helping to plan numerous fundraising events throughout the state that benefit the athletes of Special Olympics. He also donates his time as an event photographer and a Unified Partner in Bowling.

The Final Leg Team, a total of 110 members, is comprised of law enforcement runners, Special Olympics athletes, and Support Team members. The *Flame of Hope* will enter Nebraska on the evening of July 11th and will travel throughout the state for one week visiting more than 70 cities and towns throughout Nebraska before arriving at the USA National Games Opening Ceremonies in Lincoln on July 18, 2010.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. In New Jersey, the officers of the Law Enforcement Torch Run raised more than \$2.4 million for Special Olympics in 2009 through events like Polar Bear Plunges, the Plane Pull and The Lincoln Tunnel Challenge.

Special Olympics New Jersey is sending 52 athletes to compete at the 2010 USA National Games. Find more information on the USA National Games, Special Olympics New Jersey, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run at www.sonj.org.