



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Special Olympics Arkansas

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## **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas names Three to Hall of Fame**

**11/19/2019**— Little Rock, AR Special Olympics Arkansas hosted the second Hall of Fame Banquet November 19<sup>th</sup> 2019. The evening began with the traditional presentation of the Minors lamp and presentation by the North Little Rock Police Department Honour Guard. Following the ceremonial entrance guests heard from Special Olympics Athletes on the impact Law Enforcement Torch Run has had on the lives. The night was capped when three legends were recognized for their dedication and passion. The organization honoured Sgt Lori Whillock of Arkansas State Police, former Chief Ronnie Burks of Arkansas Highway Police and North Little Rock Police Department Chief Mike Davis. Combined the three nominees have contributed over seventy five years as Guardians of the Flame, creating an abundance of Awareness and raising funds for Special Olympics Arkansas. The Hall of Fame's first inductee in 2017, Bill Buford, was present to celebrate with the 2019 inductees.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has raised over 7.3million dollars over the past 32 years that allows the over 15,000 athletes in Arkansas to participate in the over 240 sports competitions, health events, and leadership programs that take place every year.

What started as a 30 mile run in 1987 has become a 1200 mile run that starts in the Four Corners of the state and is completed with the lighting of the torch that opens Special Olympics Arkansas Summer Games. Outside of running the Flame of Hope into competitions Officers participate in year-round fundraisers such as; polar plunge and tip a cop all to generate funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes.

### **About Special Olympics Arkansas**

Special Olympics Arkansas is an organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, everyday around the state. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics Arkansas is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, solving the global injustice, isolation, intolerance and inactivity they face. Special Olympics Arkansas is providing opportunities for more than 15,000 athletes and 5,000 volunteers in all counties across the State of Arkansas



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**About Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas**

The Mission of the LETR is to raise both dollars and awareness for Special Olympics. Nearly 100 agencies and 1500 officers work year-round in Arkansas to accomplish this goal; they are some of our greatest volunteers. All funds raised go towards supporting Special Olympics Arkansas year round sports training and athletic competition.

LETR holds special events like Polar Plunges, Boots-N-Badges, Tip A Cop, Golf and Softball tournaments. A major source of funding comes from the sale of Torch Run T-shirts that feature a new design each year. Sponsors and corporate donations help round out these fundraising efforts.

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