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Special Olympics Arkansas

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## **Special Olympics Arkansas Announces Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame with its first inductee**

**11/13/17**— Little Rock, AR Special Olympics Arkansas presented its first Hall of Fame inductee Tuesday night (11/7/17) at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Law Enforcement Torch Run Banquet. The evening showcased some of the best memories and the impact that the Torch Run has had on not only Special Olympics Arkansas but on the state as a whole.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has raised over 7.2 million dollars over the past 30 years that allows the over 15,000 athletes in Arkansas to participate in the over 240 sports competitions 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.

The Hall of Fame's first inductee, Bill Buford was instrumental in bringing the Torch Run to Arkansas. He served as State Director for seventeen years, and was active in bringing many of today's officers to Special Olympics Arkansas. He has always led by example and is still dedicated to the success and growth of Law Enforcement Torch Run. He has proudly served Law Enforcement Torch Run globally on the International Executive Council and has represented Arkansas well for the last 30 years. He credits the athletes for the reason why he continues to stay dedicated; they are his motivation and the reason for his success. (Link to full bio)

### **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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