



November 4, 2009

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MEDIA RELEASE

Law Enforcement Officers to run "the Flame of Hope" on Friday, June 4

On Friday, June 4th, police officers, deputies and troopers from several northern Nevada law enforcement agencies will be running in the final portion of the 2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) in Carson City, Virginia City and Reno to pave the way for the annual Summer Games for the athletes in the Special Olympics Nevada program. Law Enforcement personnel in Las Vegas and Elko participated in the LETR in their areas in late May.

In 1981 a police chief in Wichita, Kansas, named Richard LaMunyon, saw an urgent need to raise and increase awareness for the athletes in Special Olympics. He and a handful of officers from his department ran a torch through their city creating awareness to this organization.

The idea for the Torch Run was to provide local law enforcement officers with an opportunity to volunteer with Special Olympics in the communities where the officers lived and worked. After three years of successful runs in Kansas, Chief LaMunyon presented his idea to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which endorsed Special Olympics as its official charity through the Torch Run. Today, all 50 states and over 40 countries have their own versions of the Torch Run. This past December, our

Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association endorsed Special Olympics Nevada as their charity of choice.

Additionally, there are also a number of fundraisers that take place throughout the year to include "Tip-a-Cop" and "Cops & Burgers" which help to raise money and awareness for the athletes. Well on Saturday, Reno again will be hosting the annual Summer Games. The track and field activities will be taking place at Reno High School while the aquatic events will be hosted at UNR in the Lombardi Building. Over 325 athletes from the around the state of Nevada and some from Lassen County, California, will be in Reno competing for medals. Law enforcement officers will have the distinct honor and privilege of placing medals around the necks of the winners on Saturday. The many hours of volunteer service that numerous law enforcement personnel give throughout the year really does pay off when we see so many athletes competing for gold silver and bronze at the Summer Games!

Here is the agenda for all of the events:

On Friday, at approximately 2:00 pm, deputies from the Carson City Sheriff's Office and DPS employees will run the torch from Carson and Fairview to Carson and Williams.

The torch will then be transported by vehicle to Highway 50 and State Route 341 where it will be passed over to Storey County Sheriff's Office.

Storey County deputies will run the torch down "C" Street beginning at "B" Street and Finishing at Carson St.

The Torch will then travel by vehicle to Idlewild Park in Reno where personnel from several agencies to include DPS, Washoe County School Police, Airport Authority and the Reno and Sparks Police Departments will run the final leg from the park to the Silver Legacy.

Once at the Silver Legacy, the opening ceremonies will officially begin at 7:30 pm in the Silver Barron Ballroom.

Again, the Summer Games will be taking place on Saturday at both Reno High School and UNR-Lombardi Building, each beginning at approximately 9:00 am.

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