



PRESS CONFERENCE

Friday, June 26 – 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol North Steps



2009 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Northern California Final Leg Heads to UC Davis for Summer Games

WHEN: 10:30am, Friday, June 26

WHERE: State Capitol North Steps

WHAT: Beginning at 5:30 a.m., officers and deputies will relay the Special Olympics Flame of Hope™ some 28 miles from Beale's Point in Granite Bay to the North Steps of the State Capitol. After a brief kick-off ceremony and press conference, the Torch will continue its journey through West Sacramento before proceeding through Woodlands and to the Summer Games at University of California, Davis.

PRESENTERS:

Welcoming Remarks:	Amber Kaslar , Special Olympics Athlete
Northern California Torch Run:	Joe Farrow, Commissioner of CHP
Check Presentation:	Pete Dunbar, Exec. Director of Torch Run
	Marybeth McMahon, Exec. VP Special Olympics
Karen Johnson Memorial Award:	Ed Bonner, Sheriff, Placer County

WHO: Special Olympics local athletes and coaches, and officers and top brass representing the local Law Enforcement community will be in attendance.

WHAT: Beginning at 5:30 a.m., officers and deputies will relay the Special Olympics *Flame of Hope*™ some 28 miles from Beale's Point in Granite Bay to the fire station at J Street and Carlson Drive across from Sacramento State University. At that time, more runners will join the relay before continuing on to the North Steps of the State Capitol.

After a brief kick-off ceremony and press conference, the Torch will continue its journey down the Capitol Mall/Avenue to the river. The Torch will be transported across the levee to Woodlands where it will continue the 13 remaining miles to the Summer Games at University of California, Davis.

BACKGROUND: The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is both a large global grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle, raising more than \$34 million world wide to benefit Special Olympics athletes. The Torch Run is an actual running event in which officers and athletes run the *Flame of Hope*™ to the Opening Ceremony of Special Olympics competitions. In Northern California, law enforcement personnel earn the honor of running the torch through their communities on its journey to Summer Games by raising funds for Special Olympics throughout the year.

CONTACTS: **Kirsten Cherry**, Special Olympics at kirstenc@sonc.org or (925) 944-0594 or cell (925) 818-0217.
Laurie Bettencourt, Deputy Placer County Sheriff's Office at lbettenc@placer.ca.gov or (530) 308-1552 or (916) 871-5685.

Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. More than 13,000 athletes compete in over 170 competitions throughout the region in 15 sports. Programs are free to all eligible athletes. For information on 2009 Summer Games, go to www.sonc.org/summergames