

For Immediate Release



**Contact:** Terri Sappington  
Law Enforcement Torch Run Coordinator  
for Special Olympics Montana  
406-216-5327  
tsappington@somt.org

**Law Enforcement Officers and Special Olympics Athletes from Around the World  
Carry the "Flame of Hope" to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece**

[Great Falls MT - June 1, 2011] **Lt Jack Allen, from the Great Falls Police Department** has been selected to deliver the "Flame of Hope" to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. Jack is one of 101 runners from around the world participating in the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics. In addition, **Det. Jason Johnson with the Missoula County Sheriff's Office** was hand-picked to serve as a Running Team Leader during the 2011 Final Leg.

The 2011 Final Leg will precede the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Athens. From June 9th through June 25th, the Final Leg Team will conduct extensive runs and ceremonies in all of the Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout Greece. The Final Leg Team will also be conducting runs and ceremonies throughout Cyprus and Istanbul. The Final Leg will conclude with the lighting of the cauldron at Opening Ceremonies of the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, Greece on June 25th.

The Final Leg Team is comprised of law enforcement runners, Special Olympics athletes, and Support Team members. Final Leg runners were chosen from Torch Run Programs from throughout the world. Nomination forms were sent to Programs in the winter of 2010 and runners were selected in the spring of 2011. Ten Special Olympics athletes were also selected to be a part of the Final Leg Team in 2011 using the same timeline as law enforcement participants.

The Lighting of the Flame for the Special Olympics World Games will take place at the Sacred Site of Pnyx, opposite the Acropolis of Athens, in Greece on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, presided over by the President of the Hellenic Republic and many officials. In keeping with the tradition, the rays of the sun light the Flame and the entire ceremony will take place along the lines of the original Torch Lighting of the Olympics Games.

Following the Flame Lighting Ceremony, the Final Leg Team will pass in front of the Acropolis, the Herodeios Theatre, the Museum of Acropolis, the Parliament and the Presidential Palace, where a Welcome Ceremony will take place. On Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Torch Runners split into three teams and the journey of the Flame begins.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is the largest grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics programs in the world. In 2010, the Torch Run raised over \$36 million for Special Olympics world wide. Every two years, law enforcement officers and athletes representing their state's or nation's Torch Run programs are given the distinction of making the Final Leg team that carries the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" to the World Games.

Contact Information:

Lt. Jack Allen  
Great Falls Police Department  
(406) 771-1180

Detective Jason Johnson  
Missoula County Sheriff's Office  
(406) 258-3322

####