



Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg Kick-Off May 2, 2017

12:30 p.m. *Torch Runners Gather on the South Steps of
the Capitol*

1:00 p.m. *Margaret Larsen, SOTX President & CEO begins
program*

MARGARET:

Good afternoon... and welcome to the annual Law
Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg Kick-Off and Torch
Lighting Ceremony. My name is Margaret Larsen; I am
the President and CEO of Special Olympics Texas. Thank

you all for coming to take part in this great event. I want to especially welcome the members of our President's Advisory Committee, who are here from across Texas.

Thank you for joining us today!

A little later this afternoon, we'll start the Flame of Hope on its journey through Texas, and it will ultimately end up in Arlington to officially open our statewide Summer Games. The Flame of Hope burns brightly for our athletes because of our law enforcement partners.

Our athletes – young and old – love having the officers of the Law Enforcement Torch Run at their competitions.

This partnership, which is celebrating its thirty-second year in Texas, is inspiring for all of us. I'd like to bring your attention to some special guests, who are sitting right in front of the podium—Special Olympics athletes from across Texas, including

_____ . We
thank you for joining us today, athletes!

***(Margaret offers personal comments – 2
minutes, then introduces Chad Tywater)***

Chad Tywater, our board Chair, is one of our organization's greatest friends.

1:05 p.m.

CHAD TYWATER:

I am deeply honored to represent our Board of Directors today. The Law Enforcement Torch Run has been a huge sponsor of Special Olympics for 32 years. Thanks to their year-round fundraising efforts, we are able to provide sports opportunities to more than 58,333 Texans with intellectual disabilities. Your dedication and commitment to our athletes and our organization is to be commended and recognized. Thank you for being such fans of our athletes and our organization!

Now, I would like for Chief Steve Dye of the Grand Prairie Police Department, Chief Brian Manley of the Austin Police Department, Chief Doug Reim of the Highland Village Department and Assistant Chief Gary Tittle of the Dallas Police Department to say just a few words.

1:12 p.m. **CHIEF MANLEY (1 minute)**

1:10 p.m. **CHIEF DYE (1 minute)**

1:14 p.m. **CHIEF REIM (1 minute)**

1:14 p.m. **CHIEF TITTLE (1 minute)**

1:16 p.m.

MARGARET:

Thank you so much. I'd now like to introduce an individual who can truly explain and appreciate the significance of the Law Enforcement Torch Run's support. He is the reason why we are all here, and he represents the 58,333 reasons why your efforts are so important. Please welcome Morgan Collins, an athlete from right here in Austin.

1:17 p.m. **MORGAN COLLINS**

1:22 p.m.

MARGARET: Thank you Morgan! There are very few people who could ever follow a speech by one of our athletes... we're honored to have with us today a legislator who believes in our mission and our athletes: State Representative Yvonne Davis of Dallas.

1:23 p.m.

(Representative Davis speaks - 5 minutes)

1:28 p.m.

MARGARET: Thank you, Representative Davis for your words and for your support. And now, on with the Torch Run! Please walk with us to the gates on Eleventh Street,

where we will light the torch and send the flame to the five corners of the state.

1:29 p.m. *Representative Davis leads officers down Capitol Steps, walking beside Chief Dye, Chief Tittle, Chief Manley, Chief Reim, Chad Tywater, athlete speaker, other LETR leaders and officers, Margaret Larsen and SOTX athletes in attendance. (Once outside the gates of the Capitol, Representative Davis lights the torch.)*

1:35 p.m. *Representative Davis send officers off on their run down Congress Avenue led by Austin Police Department*

1:55 p.m. *Photo Opportunity at Capitol Gates*

2:00 p.m. **EVENT WRAPS**