2014 USA GAMES FINAL LEG

TEAM 5

Steve Nigrelli

New York
Team Leader

Lewis Fancher

Wyoming
Special Olympics Athlete

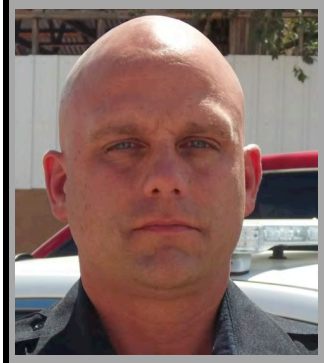
Thomas Anderson

Arizona

Christopher De Back

Mississippi

Robert Miller



New Mexico

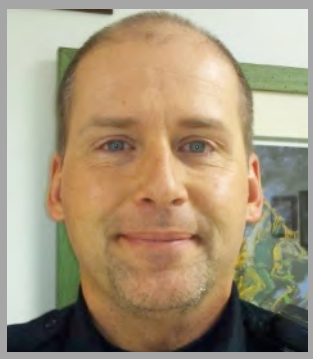
Chris Moore

Kansas

Barbara Natoli

Maryland

Troy Peasley



Maine

Jared Shepard

Nebraska

Batinna Thornhill

Georgia

James Virgil

Louisiana

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FINAL LEG
2014 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES • NEW JERSEY

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TEAM LEADER

NEW YORK

Steve Nigrelli

New York State Police

Steve is a 23 year veteran of the NY State Police and has been active in the Torch Run since 1994. He has served as the NY Torch Run Director since 2011 and currently serves as an Appointed member of the LETR Executive Counsel. He volunteers on numerous LETR event committees, to include Chairmen of the WNY Polar Plunge, WNY Torch Run Leg Coordinator, Over the Edge, Cops on Top of Donut Shop, Law and Order and State Summer Games Organizing Committee. Steve is a former winner of the John Carion "Unsung Hero" Memorial Award. You can find Steve at most events hanging around with the amazing athletes, whom he calls friends.

Steve, his wife Lenore and their two sons, Taylor and Toran volunteer as a family at various LETR events.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE

WYOMING

Lewis Fancher

Lewis is 29 years of age and lives in Riverton, Wyoming. He is very independent and adjusts quickly in all environments with little direction. Tell him your expectations and he will work hard to meet them.

He participates in Basketball, Athletics and Bowling and has won medals at SO Events in each of the past 4 years.

He is very much looking forward to participating in the Final leg.

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TORCH RUNNER

ARIZONA

Thomas Anderson

Casa Grande Police Department

Thomas Anderson currently serves as the Public Information Officer for the Casa Grande Police Department in Arizona. He has worked in Law Enforcement for 22 years. He has been with the Casa Grande Police Department for nearly 10 years and worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in various capacities for 13 years prior to that. Thomas has been involved with Special Olympics for over 15 years and currently serves as the Torch Run Leg Committee Chairman for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics of Arizona. He is married and has two children. Thomas has a passion for serving his community and helping others.

TORCH RUNNER

MISSISSIPPI

Chris De Back

Biloxi Police Department

Chris De Back has been employed by the Biloxi Police Department since 1998. During that time he has served as a patrol officer assigned to patrol, as a School Resource Officer and in 2007 was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division. As an investigator, Chris has worked Property Crimes and Crimes Against a Person. In 2008 he was promoted to Sergeant and has been a supervisor for Crimes Against a Person, Crime Scene, Cold Case, and General Criminal Investigations. Sergeant De Back became a team member with the Mississippi Law Enforcement Torch Run in 2001. He has served as a Leg Leader, Torch Run State Coordinator and Fund Raiser. In 2000 Sergeant De Back married the love of his life Mrs. Erin De Back, who is an Elementary Teacher and very supportive of the Special Olympics Program. In April 2011 the De Back's became proud parents of Cayden.

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TORCH RUNNER

NEW MEXICO

Robert Miller

Belen Police Department

Robert Miller was born in Des Moines Iowa. In 1991 after leaving school, Robert joined the United States Army serving for approximately 10 years as a Military Police Officer. During his time in the Army, Robert was stationed in Germany and Fort Carson Colorado as well as deployed to various places all over the world. In 1992 Robert married his wife Gloria and they have a 19 year old son. In 1999 Robert left the military to pursue a career in law enforcement. Robert joined the Socorro Police Department before leaving in 2001 to work for the New Mexico State Forestry. Whilst there, Robert was responsible for the investigation of wild fires. In 2004 Robert joined the Belen Police Department, where he has been ever since. Robert is extremely active in coaching his sons Special Olympics team the Belen-Los Lunas Cobra's. Robert coaches athletics, swimming and basketball.

TORCH RUNNER

KANSAS

Chris Moore

Pittsburg Police Department

Chris grew up in Olathe Kansas. His parents taught him at a young age the importance of becoming involved in community events. Chris began his law enforcement career in October of 2005 at the Pittsburg Police Department. Chris is FTO, Dare Officer, Team Leader for the departments Special Response Team, less lethal instructor and car seat technician. Chris is currently serving as a patrol sergeant. Chris is the regional coordinator for Southeast Kansas as well as his departments coordinator. Chris also sits on the Kansas LETR Executive Council. Chris is married to his wife of 9 years, Trisha. They have 2 wonderful children; Scott and Levi.

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TORCH RUNNER

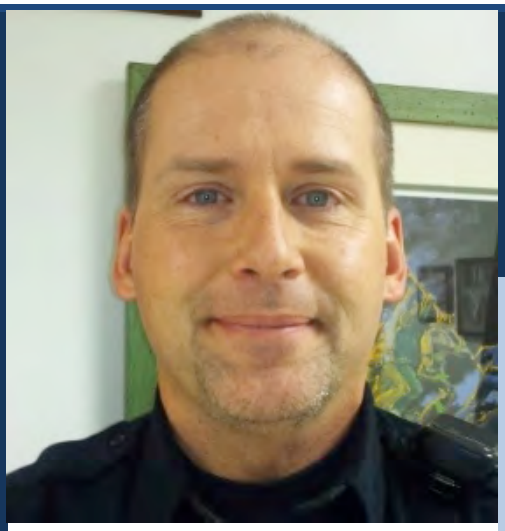
MARYLAND

Barbara Natoli

Montgomery County Police Department

Barbara Natoli has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run since joining the Montgomery County Police Department in 1995. She started as a runner and has become more involved over the years. She is the Coordinator/Liaison for her agency's Torch Run, is a medal presenter at several local/state competitions and the Maryland Summer/Winter Games, and often coordinates many fundraisers with other local law enforcement officers within her state for Special Olympics. She has participated every year in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser since it began in 1997. In doing so, she holds several of her own fundraisers to reach her fundraising goals. She volunteers her time with Special Olympics and has encouraged fellow officers to volunteer. On her "off-time", she enjoys a good book and traveling with her husband, James ~ especially to Gettysburg.

TORCH RUNNER



MAINE

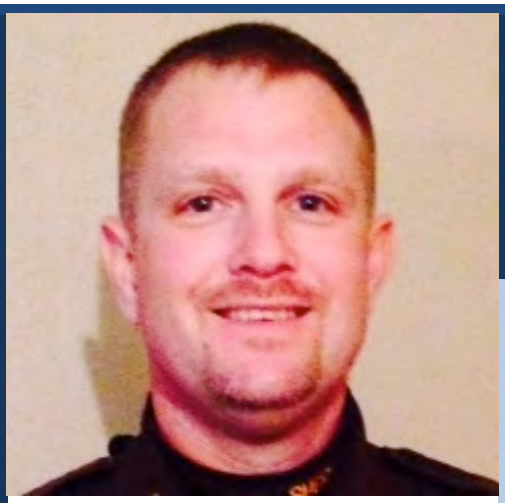
Troy Peasley

Rockland Police Department

Troy was born and raised in Owls Head, Maine. After high school he joined the US Air Force and was honorably discharged after 4 years as a Desert Storm Veteran. He attend SMTC and received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He joined the Rockland Police Department and is currently in his 19th year. He loves spending time with his 2 children Takoda and Keariel, and his wife and best friend Susie. Troy has been to 40 states & several foreign countries and loves to travel. He runs half marathons each year. Troy is an avid Boston sports fan.

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TORCH RUNNER



NEBRASKA

Jared Shepard

Scott's Bluff County Sheriff's Office

Jared Shepard was born in Kalamazoo Michigan and lived there until moving to Scottsbluff Nebraska in 2006. He worked in many different career fields before deciding to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a law enforcement officer. In December of 2010 Jared applied for a Deputy Sheriff position with the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office. He was hired in December of 2011 and graduated from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in April of 2012. Jared was approached and eagerly accepted a position on Scottsbluffs Special Olympics planning committee his first year with the Sheriff's Office. He has helped in the sales of T-shirts, runner registration and with the planning of the local SOTR event as well as participating as a runner. Jared is grateful to be a part of the SOTR, supporting these amazing athletes.

TORCH RUNNER

GEORGIA

Battina Thornhill

Gwinnet County Sheriff's Office

Batinna has been with the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office since 1996. Batinna has been involved with LETR since 1998, but was really moved when she was chosen to carry the Torch during opening games. Batinna and her athlete Matt took off running the predetermined course. The smile and joy on Matt's face took the show that night. Batinna realized that she had to continue to bring joy and excitement to every athlete. She volunteers for all events and fundraisers trying to get the word out to everyone. Hoping that little bit by little she can touch someone's heart just like Matt touched hers.

LETR FINAL LEG TEAM FIVE

TORCH RUNNER

LOUISIANA

James Virgil

Kenner Police Department

Officer James Virgil is a Crime Prevention Officer for the Kenner Police Department located in Kenner, Louisiana. During his 13 years with the Department he has been a member of the Patrol Division and the Special Response Team (S.R.T). Currently, in addition to his Crime Prevention responsibilities, Officer Virgil is a member of the Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T). Officer Virgil has participated in the Louisiana Torch Run for Special Olympics his entire law enforcement career. During the past 3 years he has become even more involved with Special Olympics including events such as SOL Bowl and Over the Edge. Prior to joining the police department, Officer Virgil was a member of the United States Marine Corps for 8 years and he is the proud father of 3 beautiful daughters.