

# FINAL LEG TEAM CAPTAIN

NEW JERSEY

## Robert Belfiore

Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Police



Special Olympics 2014 USA Games

Bob has been a Police Officer for 36 years. He started with the Newark Police Department in 1974. In 1980 he was appointed to the Port Authority of NY & NJ Police Department. Bob has been promoted through the ranks culminating with Senior Chief of Department. He was responsible for supervising 1700 sworn officers.

In 1984 Bob started as Deputy Director for the Law Enforcement Torch Run New Jersey. In 1990 Bob became Director of Law Enforcement Torch Run New Jersey, a position he still holds today. New Jersey Law Enforcement Torch Run has 40 Law Enforcement Officers who volunteer year round and annually raise three million dollars to support special athletes of New Jersey.

Some of Bob's greatest experiences with Special Olympics New Jersey is the first time in 1984 he ran the torch in New Jersey's Law Enforcement Torch Run. He vividly remembers, even though it was thirty years ago, the excitement on the athletes faces as they came marching in at William Paterson College when the Law Enforcement Officers ran the torch in at Opening Ceremonies.

Bob has a collection of so many great memories that involve Special Olympic Athletes and their relationships with Law Enforcement Officers. The biggest thing that ever happened to him in Special Olympics was an athlete handing Bob his Gold Medal in a gesture of friendship.

Final Leg Captain / Final Leg Coordinator

# FINAL LEG TEAM COORDINATOR



MARYLAND

John Newnan

Howard County Police Department



John Newnan has been involved in the Torch Run since the inaugural Torch Run in Maryland in 1986. He has served as his agency coordinator, county coordinator, and has been the MD LETR Director since 1999.

He is a Final Leg veteran and serves on the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council as the Region II Coordinator and Final Leg Committee Chair. John was honored in 2005 to be inducted into the Richard LaMunyon International LETR Hall of Fame.

He is especially proud that his Torch Run efforts involve his entire family, his wife Kathy, son Ryan, daughter Jessica, and daughter-in-law, Ashley who works for Special Olympics Maryland as their volunteer coordinator.

In 2008, John's son Ryan, helped introduce the Torch Run and Polar Plunging in the Middle East while serving a tour of duty in Mosul, Iraq as an Infantry LT/Platoon leader in the U.S. Army. While in Mosul, Iraq, Ryan put together a Polar Plunge® (with 700 bags of ice!) in a combat zone raising over \$6000 to benefit Special Olympics back home. John's daughter Jessica, is a 1st grade Special Education teacher and an avid supporter of Special Olympics.

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