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New Jersey State Police Officer Selected to Carry Torch to Shanghai
for Special Olympics World Summer Games

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New Jersey - Captain Kevin Burke, a Deputy Troop Commander for the New Jersey State Police, was selected to carry the "Flame of Hope" torch in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg for the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. The Final Leg of the Torch Run will be held from September 24 to October 3, when the "Flame of Hope" will be run into Shanghai Stadium and light the cauldron to officially open the World Summer Games. The World Games are scheduled for October 3-11, 2007 in Shanghai.

Burke, who was selected from a pool of 2,700 members of the New Jersey Law Enforcement Torch Runners, has been training for the honor for the past 10 months, logging some 20 miles a week. "I've received full support from my supervisors and the New Jersey State Police," according to Burke. "and, of course, great support from my family."

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Apart from his vigorous training, Burke has immersed himself in learning the Chinese culture by studying the customs, history and traditions of the country.

Burke said he is proud to be selected to participate in the International Torch Run, but is "constantly inspired" by the athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey. As an active member of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey for more than 20 years, Burke is an event director for the very successful mid-winter Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights. "Events like the Polar Bear Plunge help to provide a direct line of support to these athletes and gives them every conceivable opportunity to achieve and excel in sports and in life," according to Burke.

While the Torch Run has been a Special Olympics tradition for more than 25 years, this marks the first time the "Flame of Hope" has traveled the globe in a single event. Carried by torch on the ground by teams of athletes and law enforcement personnel from around the world, the flame will travel more than 22,000 miles, touching down on five continents over a period of three months before arriving in Shanghai, where it will ignite the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony of the 2007 World Games on October 3rd.

To follow Burke and his fellow Torch Runners as they make their way to light the cauldron in Shanghai, China visit the following website:

http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Compete/World_Games/2007_World_Summer_Games/Global+Torch+Run/default.htm

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