

7/18/2008 Moran Recognizes Special Olympics for 40 Years of Empowering Individuals

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Continues Serving as Honorary Chairman for Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran this week recognized Special Olympics for its 40 years of empowering individuals with disabilities in a speech to the U.S. House of Representatives. This week marked the organization's 40th anniversary.

"Competing in Special Olympics empowers individuals with disabilities and gives them confidence to face challenges in their own lives," Moran said. "Special Olympics does remarkable work. I commend the leaders and volunteers for 40 years of outstanding service and the athletes for showing courage in both competition and their daily lives."

Special Olympics is a worldwide organization that provides sports training and athletic competition to more than 2.5 million people with intellectual disabilities. The first Special Olympic Games, originally an initiative of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held on July 20, 1968, in Chicago. Through Special Olympics, athletes develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self confidence and a more positive self image.

Since 2007, Moran has served as the Honorary Chairman for the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run. Kansas Law Enforcement officers cover hundreds of miles in the Torch Run throughout the state each year and raise thousands of dollars in support of Special Olympics Kansas programs.

Moran joined Special Olympics Kansas athletes, fans, volunteers and families in Wichita in June for the opening ceremony of the 2008 Summer Games.

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