

CONGRATULATIONS!
2012 Tim Stafford Unsung Hero Award
Master Sgt., Mike McPherson, Oklahoma City Police Department



Mike McPherson was presented with the award at the 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run Kick-Off Luncheon, January 26, 2012 in Oklahoma City. (left to right) Mark Wollmershauser, Oklahoma LETR Executive Director; Mike McPherson, 2012 Unsung Hero; Misti Stafford Lipps.

This year's recipient of the Tim Stafford Unsung hero award has been involved in Special Olympics and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for 12 years. This individual has been involved with the LETR since the very first polar plunge in 2001 at Joe's Crab Shack and has remained involved with the plunges ever since. He has organized or assisted in numerous motorcycle rides and golf tournaments. He assisted in both of the truck convoy's held in Oklahoma as well as participated in Cops on Doughnut Shops, Tip-a-Cop at Texas Road House, Red Robin, Joe's Crab Shack and Johnnie Carino's. He assisted in obtaining material and set-up and presentation for the Oklahoma's International LETR conference in 2007. He served on several committees for the 2007 International LETR conference hosted in Oklahoma City. He obtained sponsorships, worked on goodie bags and was present throughout the conference to assist in any area required. He was a very strong force behind the scenes that helped make the Oklahoma LETR conference a success. He has helped organize and participate in rooftop sits for days on top of Spinozie's, as well as Coaches at Bricktown.

Mike is at any LETR function and will and has done anything to see it succeed. He also attends and participates in both Summer and Winter Games as part of the LETR torch lighting ceremonies. His human kindness, unselfishness and unconditional love for the Special Olympics Athlete is second to none. He has a great rapport with the athletes and has been a member of the Summer Games committee since 2005 and assists with providing transportation to various venues, athlete check-in at the end of the day, as well as any other needs which may arise. Mike also is a volunteer at the regional softball tournament. He has assisted and participated in the Down Syndrome Buddy Walk event. He has developed a unique relationship with the athletes over the years. He is known to them as the "Cowboy Cop" as he always wears his cowboy hat unless he is in uniform. He has become a true friend to numerous athletes and has represented law enforcement to the highest degree. It has been said over the years that behind every good man is a strong woman, which can also be said in reverse. His wife, who is a member of the LETR Committee and is usually the one we all see out in front, has a strong man behind her. Mike is the man behind the woman. Mike and Jill are a true force in LETR, Special Olympics and the entire special needs community. **If ever there was someone who was truly a behind the scenes, requires no acknowledgment, dedicated to the athlete's man and a real unsung hero, it would be Mike McPherson.**