



This year's recipient of the Tim Stafford Unsung hero award has been involved in Special Olympics 19 years and Law Enforcement Torch Run for more than 7 years. It made a lasting impact on his life. He is continually being amazed to see the athlete's determination despite their disabilities.

- 1999-2002 Assisted OHP Trooper Steve Burrows and Captain Chris Nixon with fishing tournament at Lake Carl Blackwell.
- 2000 Began volunteering at LETR Events
- 2000 Started volunteering at the Bocce Venue during Special Olympics Summer Games.
- 2007 Founded the Stillwater Polar Plunge with Jim Scott and Steve Burrows
- 2008-2015 Was a member of the Statewide LETR Committee
- 2010 Was selected to represent Oklahoma in the Special Olympics National Games Final Leg
- 2008-Current Has led numerous Tip-A-Cops in Stillwater at Eskimo Joe's, Mexico Joe's, Texas Roadhouse and the Garage.
- Coordinated two concerts that Special Olympics was the beneficiary of the proceeds (one at Eskimo Joe's with No Justice and William Clark Green at Tumbleweeds)

- Constantly coming up with new fundraising ideas to be held in the Payne county area to benefit Oklahoma Special Olympics Athletes.
- Started new event and auction with Mojo's in Stillwater
- Attended LETR International Conference in Long Beach and Connecticut
- 2 Time winner of the "Big Dog" award presented by Jim Scott at Special Olympics State Summer Games. The winners are recognized as State Games Committee Members who go above and beyond.
- Now runs security for Special Olympics State Summer Games

He has been described by the Oklahoma Special Olympics State Summer Games Director, *as a person that works throughout the year to ensure the safety of participants. He also coordinates with LETR, Special Olympics Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. He coordinates all officer involvement at the games and also assists Special Olympics Oklahoma staff and the Games Director.*

He is involved with Special Olympics for the right reasons and he believes in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Mission. When he was selected to participate in the USA Special Olympics National Games in 2010 he suffered an injury that was going to keep him out of the Final Leg. Instead of calling the organizers and say that he could not attend at the last minute he asked what he could do to still be a part of the team.

Not only was he a part of the team he was the behind the scenes go to guy for the over 50 runners and support staff. As a team leader I had to be one of the last to bed and first up every day of that trip. He made sure he was the last to bed and first up every day making sure that all of his teams needs were taken care of since he went from runner to RV Driver and Support Staff. He made sure his team's laundry was done, their RV was clean and anything that his team or athlete needed. He did all this while being in severe pain and never once complained nor did you know he was hurting because of the grin of sheer joy on his face.

To watch him with an athlete is one of those magical moments, you can see it in his face as well as the athletes that they have both touched one another's life. He puts in countless hours throughout the year planning the security and safety of the more than 10,000 people who attend the Oklahoma Special Olympics State Summer Games as participants,

volunteers or spectators. The time spent planning takes time away from his family and friends but he wouldn't have it any other way because he is making sure his Special Olympics Family is safe.

He is the definition of an unsung hero. Always the first to lend a hand to any athlete but to do it in a way that is not in the public eye or drawing attention. He seeks out those athletes and families that are off to the side and not in the fore front to give them a hug or a word of encouragement.

There is no one more dedicated to improving the lives and abilities of the athletes of Special Olympics Oklahoma. He is always about the athlete and not about himself in these efforts. Our nominee is a friend of all Special Olympics Athletes, and is truly an unsung hero. **It is my pleasure to introduce the 2018 Tim Stafford Unsung Hero, Paul Fox, Payne County Sheriff's Office.**