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San Antonio Area Athletes and Coaches to Depart for the Special Olympics U.S.A. National Games

SAN ANTONIO – In one week, 152 Texas athletes and 39 coaches will depart on the journey of a lifetime! **Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) – San Antonio area athletes and coaches will travel on July 17 to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 2010 U.S.A. National Games!**

The Games will be held on and near the University of Nebraska at the Lincoln campus, July 18-23. SOTX athletes will compete in aquatics, athletics, bocce, basketball, bowling, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, flag football, tennis and volleyball.

Thirty San Antonio area athletes and five coaches will be among those representing Team Texas at the Games. *(See page two for a list of local participating athletes and coaches.)* Athlete bios are available upon request. Updates and results on the Texas athletes will be available online at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Travel Details

- Twenty-four San Antonio area athletes and coaches will travel by Cessna airplanes. The Cessnas will leave from the Citation Service Center at 1738 Skyplace Blvd. on July 17 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. The Cessna flights will return to the Citation Service Center on July 24 starting at 2:40 p.m., with the last flight arriving by 3:40 p.m.
- The athletes and coaches traveling on a commercial flight will meet outside of the Southwest ticketing area on July 17 at 6:45 a.m. at the San Antonio International Airport. The group will return to San Antonio at 2:55 p.m. on July 24.

Nationwide, more than 160 private jets have been donated, with many of the planes making multiple trips to bring athletes and take them home. The jets will be landing approximately every two minutes for a 9-hour period on Saturday, July 17.

(MORE)

* **MEDIA NOTE:** Media planning to cover the send off at the airports should notify the Media Contacts listed above in advance.

ATHLETE NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Earl Bell	Basketball	San Antonio
Craig Buscemi	Basketball	Live Oak
Daryl Carpenter	Softball	San Antonio
Min Hai Che	Softball	San Antonio
Herman "T.J" Crockett	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Kenneth Dohmen	Unified Basketball	Cibolo
Leonard Flowers	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Aimee-Rhae Galindo	Athletics	San Antonio
Johnny Garcia	Softball	San Antonio
William Goodrich	Softball	San Antonio
Allen Green	Bocce	San Antonio
Joe Hardeman	Basketball	Universal City
David Hedges	Bowling	San Antonio
Stephen Kilpatrick	Unified Basketball	Cibolo
Dante Lewis	Basketball	San Antonio
Kristen Medley	Athletics	San Antonio
Zachary Mickaels	Softball	San Antonio
Chuck "Consa" Newman	Basketball	Converse
David "D.J" Nicholson	Basketball	San Antonio
Jonathan Pilgrim	Softball	San Antonio
Mark Rapolla	Basketball	Helotes
Matthew Rapolla	Basketball	Helotes
Wesley Reagan	Softball	San Antonio
Joshua Ross	Softball	San Antonio
Kimberly Taggart	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Tim Taggart	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Jessica Tunnell	Aquatics	San Antonio
Phillip Turner	Softball	Universal City
Daniel Van Kleef	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Ruben Young	Basketball	San Antonio

COACH NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Debra Blackwood	Unified Basketball	San Antonio
Helena Delgado	Softball	San Antonio
Paul Gustafson	Basketball	San Antonio
Shirley Johnson	Basketball	San Antonio
Becky Neff	Aquatics	Universal City

About the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska will showcase and celebrate the Special Olympics movement and athletes from across the United States, while illustrating the power of sports to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities. From July 18-23, 2010, nearly 3,000 athletes will compete in 13 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 15,000 family and friends. In addition to sports, the USA National Games will offer various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more, visit www.2010specialolympics.org

(MORE)

About Special Olympics Texas

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for 36,311 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the Lone Star State. Be a part of the movement that is **CHANGING LIVES** in your community. For more information, visit www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Special Olympics Texas Official Partners:

Coca-Cola Bottling Companies of Texas, Food Town, H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust and the Law Enforcement Torch Run

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