

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2026

SR 26

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5 By: Senator J. Petty  
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO CONGRATULATE MR. JUSTIN TATE ON HIS  
10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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12  
13 **Subtitle**

14 TO CONGRATULATE MR. JUSTIN TATE ON HIS  
15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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17 WHEREAS, Mr. Justin Tate of Elkins, Arkansas, is an accomplished  
18 Special Olympian and athlete; and

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20 WHEREAS, the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games are set to begin on June  
21 20, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and

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23 WHEREAS, since its founding in 1981 by Kansas Police Chief Richard  
24 LaMunyon, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has grown to be the largest grass-  
25 roots fundraiser for the Special Olympics; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, since 1987, as part of the Final Leg program of the Law  
28 Enforcement Torch Run, law enforcement officers and Special Olympians from  
29 around the world have been chosen to represent their country, state, and  
30 local Law Enforcement Torch Run organization as a "Guardian of the Flame" and  
31 carry the Special Olympics Torch, known as the "Flame of Hope", to the  
32 Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Games and Special Olympics  
33 USA Games; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is the  
36 culmination of long periods of training, fundraising, awareness efforts, and



1 preparation for the Special Olympics, and is the final torch relay of the  
2 Special Olympics, in which the Guardians of the Flame bring the Flame of Hope  
3 to light the cauldron at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics games,  
4 and symbolizes the official start of competition; and  
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6 WHEREAS, there may only be up to eight (8) Special Olympians chosen as  
7 Guardians of the Flame for a specific Special Olympics; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate was chosen to participate as a Guardian of the Flame  
10 in the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the 2026 Special  
11 Olympics USA Games; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate was chosen to be a Guardian of the Flame due to his  
14 dedication and passion to supporting Special Olympics Arkansas, as well as  
15 his conditioning and ability to run up to five (5) miles per day; and  
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17 WHEREAS, in his role as a Guardian of the Flame, Mr. Tate will carry  
18 the Flame of Hope to the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics USA  
19 Games; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the duties of Guardian of the Flame will begin for Mr. Tate on  
22 May 30, 2026, and Mr. Tate will run across the United States until the  
23 beginning of the Opening Ceremonies at the Special Olympics USA Games on June  
24 20, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and  
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26 NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
28 STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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30 THAT the Senate congratulate Mr. Justin Tate for his selection as a  
31 Guardian of the Flame of the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and  
32 laud Mr. Justin Tate for his dedication and passion to supporting Special  
33 Olympics Arkansas.  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
36 presented to Mr. Justin Tate by the Secretary of the Senate.