



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sergeant John Kvasnicka Receives Special Olympics Minnesota's Law Enforcement Torch Run Unsung Hero Award**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN. – September 15, 2017** – Athletes, coaches, families, sponsors and volunteers of Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN) gathered to honor the champions of the 2017 Distinguished Service Awards on Saturday, September 9 at the Pantages Theatre in Minneapolis, MN. The Distinguished Service Awards recognizes people who have demonstrated incredible support, enthusiasm and time commitment to the organization. Among those honored was Sergeant John Kvasnicka, receiving the Law Enforcement Torch Run Unsung Hero Award.

Kvasnicka's work with the Torch Run includes nearly 20 years of work behind the scenes to raise funds and awareness for SOMN. His leadership helped start the Prior Lake Polar Plunge and in its first year 30 Plungers raised about \$12,000. Now — after almost 10 years of getting law enforcement agencies all over Scott County involved to support and grow the event — the Prior Lake Plunge has more than 600 Plungers each year and has raised more than one million dollars.

In addition, Kvasnicka is equally dedicated to directly supporting the mission of SOMN. He has developed many partnerships with businesses, civic organizations and individual people to support Delegations in Scott County, such as the Savage/Prior Lake Lakers and the Tri-County Chargers. The awareness generated by the partnerships Kvasnicka cultivated helped introduce SOMN to many more people, and these two Delegations now have more than 150 registered athletes.

### **Distinguished Service Awards**

Each year, Special Olympics Minnesota honors individuals, organizations and volunteers who have made a significant contribution to our program's growth and success.

### **About Special Olympics Minnesota**

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year-round sports training and competition in 17-Olympic type sports for more



than 8,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Through Special Olympics' athletic, health and leadership programs, people with intellectual disabilities transform themselves, their communities and the world.



**Savage Police Chief Rodney Seurer presenting the Unsung Hero Award to Sgt. John Kvasnicka**  
Chief Seurer currently sits on the Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run Council as Past Director