



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193
Phone (601) 351-8018 Fax (601) 351-8364
www.msh.state.ms.us

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Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

THE FLAME OF HOPE STOPS BY MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

WHITFIELD—Law enforcement officers from all across the state stopped by Mississippi State Hospital on Wednesday, May 12 as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, bringing the Flame of Hope to the hospital as it makes its way all the way down to Biloxi in time for the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics.

Officers from the Brandon Police Department, the Rankin County Sheriff's Department, the Madison Police Department and the Ridgeland Police Department joined Louis Beck, with the Biloxi Police Department, who has been involved with the Torch Run for 10 years. He has been travelling with the Flame of Hope all across the state.

“This is just a way to get involved with the community,” Beck said. “The law enforcement community comes together, with all people from all over the state working together to do this.”

The torch run is an annual event in which law enforcement officers carry the flame around the country, raising awareness and funds for the Special Olympics. In addition to the officers, other community organizations do their part to raise awareness for the event.

Pete Breslin, with Chapter 447 of Star Touring and Riding, was escorting the torch all the way from Ridgeland to Keesler Air Force Base on the Gulf Coast.

“We do this each year,” Breslin said. “I just think it's terribly important to give these children every advantage we can. They really enjoy the Special Olympics. I used to work at Keesler, and we were involved when I was there, and this is a really great thing for everyone involved.”

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTOS ATTACHED