

## **Governor Ritter Joins Torch Run Unification Ceremony**

**DENVER, Colo.** -- Governor Bill Ritter took time out of his busy schedule to address nearly 100 Law Enforcement Torch Runners and Special Olympics Colorado athletes at the 2009 Flame of Hope Torch Run Unification Ceremony June 4 on the steps of the State Capitol. Three flames were united into a single torch, which then proceeded down the 16th Street Mall before heading North to Greeley for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2009 Summer Games.

Colonel James Wolfinbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, also addressed the officers. Chief of Police Richard LaMunyon, who is credited with starting the Torch Run for Special Olympics in 1981, was the guest speaker. Also participating in the ceremony was Colorado LETR Director Ron Leonard, President/CEO of Special Olympics Colorado Mindy Watrous and SOCO athlete Melissa Stokes.



*LETR Officers*



*Chief Wolfinbarger*



*The torches are unified*



*Governor Ritter and Mindy Watrous*



*Mindy Watrous*



*Melissa Stokes*

