

"It's been told that swimming is a wimp sport, but I don't see it. We don't get timeouts, in the middle of a race we can't stop and catch our breath, we can't roll on our stomachs and lie there, and we can't ask for a substitution." ~Author Unknown

Case and point proven! On Saturday, October 3, 2009, 185 courageous Special Olympic Athletes made a big splash at the Galena Park ISD Aquatic Center. Opening ceremony started as athletes marching into the Aquatic Center. Athletes, grouped in their teams lead by colorful team banners wrapped the perimeter of the Olympic sized pool. No sooner had Opening ceremonies completed, the Olympic Torch passed, and the Olympic Flame lit, the athletes hit the poolside starting blocks and the races were on! I sat and watched in amazement as the athletes swam 25 yard, 50 yard, and 100 yard heats, thinking to myself...how do they do that? I would need a timeout or two, I'd have to stop in the middle of the race and catch my breath, roll on my back and lie there...and for sure tap-out and call for a substitution! Such was not the case with these battle ready Olympians. Regardless of the distance, regardless of speed or skill, the brave men and women courageously pushed themselves to complete their heats. It was truly, an awesome display of determination and Olympic spirit.

A Father Leading by Example. "My definition of a father would be someone who leads by example and tries to teach their children how to live their life in a way that is pleasing to God. Teach them to do the right things. That's our job, is to try to guide them in the right direction. - Frank Rast of Orangeburg

Worthy Grand Knight Joe Bush of St. Andrew Council #9041 was there to lend a hand. Joe brought along a teammate, his daughter D'Ana. Together, Joe and D'Ana took charge of a lane and spent the day working as time keepers, tracking the swimmers on their take off and their finish and forwarding their times to the official's table. A big thank you to this Father-Daughter team for taking the time to support these Special Olympians! Great job Worthy Grand Knight!

Final Comment: During a break I took a walk around the pool to checkout on going competitions, I was wearing my Knights of Columbus shirt, as I walked past a group of people, a woman yelled out to me, *"Hey!! It's great to see the Knights out again! Thank you all so much, we appreciate your group's help!"* I thanked her, told her she was very welcome and walked off

feeling proud that we, these men called The Knights of Columbus are supporting such a great cause.



The Procession.





Singing the Start Spangled Banner



Passing the Torch.



Lighting the Olympic Flame



And they're off!



Worthy Grand Knight Joe Bush and daughter D'Ana.



Timing!



*Sean Ulrey – Event Director, Hillary Nyert Program Associate and
Renee Klovenski – Greater Houston and Golden Triangle Program Director*



Awards!

NEXT!!??

Stay tuned!!

Sincerely,

***Jaime Vitela** - Special Olympics Director for the Knights of Columbus of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*