

1890 Alameda Drive
DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130

August 30, 2001

SEP

Florida Highway Patrol
Division of FHP Station
Captain Robert S. Duncan
1551 E. International Speedway Blvd.
DeLand, Florida 32724

Dear Mr. Duncan:

I am writing this letter to sincerely thank Trooper Darryl Haywood who assisted me on the night of 8/28/01 in a most unusual situation. I work during the day for the Clerk of the Courts and at night I work for Wal-Mart Super Center. I did my grocery shopping after I clocked out at 10:00 p.m. on that night because I haven't had a chance to do it since I just had heart catheterization on Friday, 8/24/01. On my way home on Highway 11, DeLeon Springs near Orange Hammock road (which is pitch black at night) at approximately 11:30 p.m., I saw a large jet black, I believed to be, a bull standing in the middle of the road. I had only a second to react and I locked my brakes and I headed for the shoulder of the road to my right. I heard a large thud against my car and I had total control of my car, but could not see that I hit it since there is no lights out there, but I did hit the cow. I went a little farther and turned the car around and put my headlights on the cow (which was still standing in the middle of the road). I drove my car slowly toward it to get it off the road so no one would get hurt or killed with it there. It did walk to the side of the road and I noticed I broke the front leg on it, but it was walking with the 3 legs and the front leg held up. I rushed North on Highway 11 to my house to grab my cell phone to call the police. I grabbed the phone (which I normally carry with me but did not have it on me that day) and called 911 (Call #532).

I headed back down Highway 11 to where I hit the "bull" while still on with 911 and trying to talk to the State Highway Patrol. I was trying to read the road signs to give a location and keep the cow out of the roadway, knowing all along my car was damaged but did not know how extensively. My mind was on saving anyone else from this experience or injury or death. My cell phone kept cutting off, I didn't realize my son took my phone and used up all the minutes on me, but 911 was still trying to help.

I sat on the opposite side of the road of the cow "bull" with my 4 way flashers on and waited for help still trying to get some help with my dead cell phone (area did not help with the signal bands). It seemed like a long time for help, however, I saw flashing blue lights behind me. I was relieved.

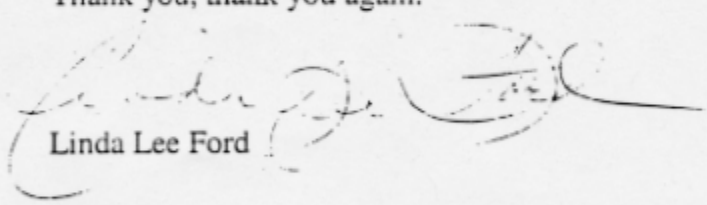
The Deputy got out of his car and made sure I was alright. I explained to him I didn't want that "bull" out into the road that I just hit it. He was so nice and comforting checking the situation out and making sure everything was okay. A short time later another car pulled up behind this deputy and he turned on his flashing lights. Then a third deputy appeared. They were wonderful. They found the owner of the "bull" (which was really a female cow), kept it from coming back onto the road, and was very comforting and assuring me and assisting me of finally getting a State Trooper out there and they did an outstanding job.

Trooper Darryl Haywood arrived at the scene and the deputies informed him of the situation. Both the Deputies and the Trooper were a real good team and made it easier for me. Trooper Haywood did an outstanding job of keeping me safe, comfortable, while gathering all the information and doing the reports. I was so lucky to have such a thorough, understanding, caring professional there with me. I cannot say enough good words to describe how great Trooper Haywood was on this most unusual situation and stressful situation for me.

Please sincerely thank Trooper Haywood for the outstanding job he did that night not only for me but for all motorists that traveled that highway that night. I was not injured, except for a seat belt mark across my stomach, which I had checked out by my doctor and it is only a bruise. He filled out the report and I had all my paper work that I need to proceed with a "new experience" of contacting my insurance company, the high school, etc.

I can not say enough "THANK YOU's" to Trooper Haywood for his outstanding job.

Thank you, thank you again.



Linda Lee Ford