

Nancy Murphy Brink



Colonel Christopher Knight
Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

September 27, 2001

Dear Colonel Knight,

I wish so much that I did not have to write this letter, but it is important to me to do so.

On Sunday, September 9, 2001, my husband, Michael Brink, died in an accident on State Road 60 near Yeehaw Junction. He was traveling to Miami from Lakeland where he had left our five month old daughter and I to spend some time caring for my mother who recently had brain cancer. Michael died at 3:05 that afternoon, but I did not suspect that anything was wrong until about eight that evening, when he had not reached our house in Miami.

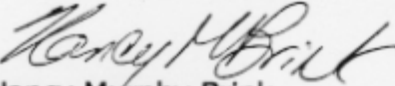
At nine that night, Trooper Larry Coggins came to my parents' house in Lakeland. As soon as I saw his car out of the front window, I knew. Mr. Coggins made a life shattering experience at least somewhat bearable. When he told me that Michael had died, I collapsed. I had no idea what to do.

Mr. Coggins was wonderful. He stayed with my family and helped us figure things out. He arranged for my father in law (a Metro-Dade police officer) to be told by a close friend and fellow police officer. He gave my father all the information we would need in the horrible week following. I remember thinking that this man needed to get back to work, but he insisted on staying as long as we needed him. He did just that. After he handled all of the work, he spent time talking with me about the loss of his own brother in a similar manner. He was a comfort during a time that I could not imagine being comforted.

A few days ago I received a personal and heartfelt card from Mr. Coggins expressing his condolences and offering to assist in any way possible. I truly believe that he means what he offers.

I cannot say enough wonderful things about Mr. Coggins. Please do what you can to show him how much he is appreciated. Our community and our state are blessed to have him serving us.

Best Wishes,


Nancy Murphy Brink