
ORANGE

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Sheriff Kevin Beary

COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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March 7, 2002

Major Cyrus Brown
Florida Highway Patrol
133 S. Semoran Blvd. Suite A
Orlando, Fla. 32807

Dear Major Brown,

I am writing you this letter to commend the actions of one of your subordinates, Trooper J.E. Gilbert.

Trooper Gilbert has teamed up with management of "Fun Spot", a local business located on International Dr. and formed a curriculum he teaches to high school students. The name of this program is the *DUI Experience*. This program involves Trooper Gilbert discussing facts about driving under the influence, as well as the financial and emotional costs of DUI. Trooper Gilbert then gives the students a sobriety test before having them place impairment simulator type goggles on. The students drive the business's go-carts with the goggles on to experience the effects of alcohol impairment. The students are then given another sobriety test with the goggles on.

Trooper Gilbert teaches this class 2 Friday mornings a month, on his own time and frequently on little or no sleep. He travels from his home in Mt. Plymouth to International Dr. and is not compensated for travel or teaching time. He believes in the program and hopes to have a deterrent impact on teenage drinking and driving. I have personally watched many of Trooper Gilbert's presentations and it is evident that he believes in teenage DUI deterrence. His efforts will result in approximately 500 local students completing this program. Many of these students have stated to our school resource officers and myself that as a result of this experience, they are committed to not drinking and driving. Additionally, members of the media have covered this program showing how local business and law enforcement are acting together in an effort to curtail a serious problem in our community. I feel these facts leave little doubt that Trooper Gilbert's efforts are truly worthwhile.

I have taken the liberty recognizing Trooper Gilbert by nominating him for an award from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. I have attached this memo to this letter of commendation.

I felt strongly enough about Trooper Gilbert's tireless efforts that his commanding officer should be aware.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BEARY

Sheriff of Orange County



Sgt. Scott Lynch

Office County Sheriff's Office
Community Relations Division
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(407)836-3736



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