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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Office of the Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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November 27, 2002

Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Director, Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Colonel Knight:

I wish to express my thanks to the Florida Highway Patrol for allowing me the opportunity to experience first-hand a day in the life of a state trooper. On Monday, November 25, I rode with Trooper Larry E. Coggins, Jr. on his shift, observing the myriad of skills necessary to perform a job that requires confident authority as well as sensitivity to each individual situation.

In my position as legislative aide to State Representative Dennis A. Ross (District 63), I have had many occasions to learn the inner workings of state agencies. I recognize this as a distinct privilege and truly appreciate this unique education. Putting a face to the FHP has increased my value to both Representative Ross and our constituents. The more I know, the better I am able to serve the state of Florida.

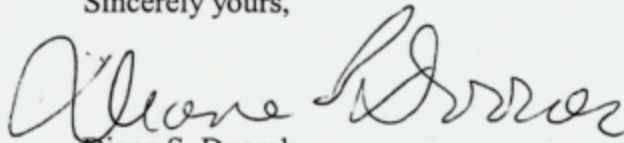
As you are undoubtedly aware, Trooper Coggins represents the FHP with pride and integrity. His patience in answering my questions about FHP's role in Florida's law enforcement allowed me to absorb the information fully and brief Representative Ross competently. I discovered a trooper must be psychologist, social worker, traffic cop, and computer savvy to do his or her job. Trooper Coggins explained to me also that troopers are fully aware they are representing the State of Florida and that their conduct must reflect this added responsibility.

Our state is so often beleaguered with bad press, I find rededication when I meet with state workers who perform above and beyond their job descriptions. From my ride along with Trooper Coggins, I came away with the knowledge that FHP consistently provides service within those parameters, without thought to personal reward or recognition. Working in a legislative

office throws us into an ivory tower of sorts; yet, it is our obligation to pay attention to our constituents, who include, to our honor, the FHP.

The thrill of riding with a Florida state trooper will stay with me for a very long time. Please call upon our office if ever we can be of service to you and the FHP.

Sincerely yours,



Diane S. Dvorak

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