

Sergeant Williams  
Florida Highway Patrol  
3775 West King Street  
Cocoa, Florida 32926

Dear Sergeant Williams,

Professional law enforcement officers often hear or read complaints, so let me rush to write that this is absolutely Not such a document, rather it is an expression of my high regard for my treatment at the hands of a trooper of FHP.

On February 21 at 1445local I caused the first accident of my fifty year driving career. Traveling east on Barnes Blvd. at twenty-five miles per hour, I was following another car, when a large truck suddenly loomed very near behind and traveling much faster than other traffic. My eyes flashed to the rear view mirror, and in that instant of inattention I struck the car in front, which had suddenly stopped. My seat belt was fastened, and the airbags deployed on contact, as designed. Fortunately, no one was injured, and there was only property damage.

The Rockledge police and the paramedics instantly responded and offered assistance to everyone involved, impressing me with their professionalism. The officer told me that FHP was on the way to conduct the investigation and drove away.

Within five minutes a FHP car parked nearby, and Corporal Corbett alighted. First, he asked everyone about possible injuries, then he quickly and efficiently conducted his investigation, taking information from others involved first, then approaching me for the information he required.

My first impression of Cpl. Corbett was very favorable, and it proved to be accurate. His personal appearance was excellent. His tailored uniform was clean, neat, and well pressed, his shoes gleamed, and he had a military-like haircut. He was trim and well conditioned. Cpl. Corbett was courteous and respectful with his questions, which were direct and on point. I was a MP many years ago and conducted many accident investigations, so am able to judge an investigator's conduct.

After Corporal Corbett completed and handed me a citation for causing an accident, he carefully explained the law involved and the procedures for dealing with traffic citations. I was pleased with Corporal Corbett's persona as I was with his appearance. Corporal Corbett is a credit to the Florida Highway Patrol in particular and law enforcement in general.

To his amazement, I told him of my impressions after he had me sign the citation, tore it from his book and handed it to me.

With a surprised look on his face he stated, "Mister Skipper, it is unusual for anyone to compliment me right after I hand them a ticket."

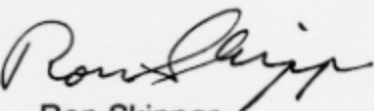
In reply I told him that I always admire and try to encourage excellence in others, just as I have always tried for excellence in my own professions, for I had the honor of being an international Airline Captain for more than thirty years and am also a Master Mariner

Please take note of this fine young man, Sergeant Williams, and give him a copy of this letter, with my compliments and gratitude for a job well done. My position(s) and the years taught me that everyone's performance improves, when he or she is patted on the back after doing well. I hope some of this sunshine reflects upon you, as well.

Ms Allison Cockrell greeted me pleasantly and with only his ID number, provided both your and your subordinate's family names. She offered to introduce us, but you were on the telephone, and I had an appointment.

This encounter with FHP has a happy ending, and I wish it could always be so for us all, but that is a futile wish in this world of human failings. Nevertheless, we can all make the best of what life hands us, smile whenever possible, and be happy.

Sincerely,

  
Ron Skipper