

August 27, 2002

SEP 10 2002

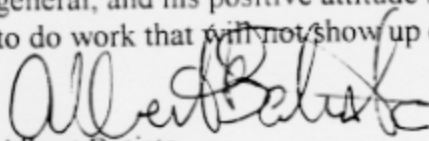
Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Director, Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Trooper Carlos Montenegro

Dear Colonel Knight:

Most of the State Highway Patrol Troopers that I have ever met are usually former Marines or other military persons who are very disciplined and respectful of everyone. The State Highway Patrol is probably the cream of the crop in terms of Police Departments, although there are many high quality persons involved in Law Enforcement at all levels.

On August 22, I had been on the road a couple of hours because I had visited the wife of a deceased friend in North Miami Beach to see how their family was doing. Then I was on my way back to South Dade where I live, and it was about ten at night, and I was tired and thinking about my dead friend. I ran out of gas right at the exit to my home. Additionally, the car battery died too, and the engine would not turn over at all. So I called my mother at home as it is a five minute drive. As I was waiting for my mother, Officer Montenegro drove by and I explained what happened and he offered to wait with me as he attended to his schedule of Court Appearances. Unfortunately, my mother did not understand that I was on the expressway, and after she drove by on the street and could not find the car, she returned home. At the time, Officer Montenegro and I were still waiting, and so I called my wife, because she was getting off work at that time. I asked Officer Montenegro if he could drive me to the Gas Station that is near the exit and then I could get gas and I would be easier to locate. Officer Montenegro kindly offered to help, and he took me to the gas station where my wife quickly found me and my car was gassed up and re-charged. Officer Montenegro really did a very special and positive thing. By helping me he also helped my mother who was worried because she could not find me. Thanks to Officer Montenegro taking me to the gas station, I was able to contact her quickly and let her know that I was fine. Officer Montenegro could have just driven by and let me walk, but he took the time and effort to find out what had happened and to help out a tired person on a dark road at night. Officer Montenegro is a credit to the Highway Patrol, Law Enforcement in general, and his positive attitude makes the world a better place. Police Officers who are willing to do work that will not show up on their list of arrests or traffic citations are good people.


Albert Batista

