

August 25, 2002

Sergeant Aristides Maldonado  
Florida Highway Patrol  
1011 NW 111 Ave  
Miami, Florida 33172

Dear Sergeant Maldonado,

On Sunday, August 18, 2002 I was personally involved in a multiple car accident. I am writing in response to the exemplary example of public service that Trooper Pedro Ortega performed at the accident site.

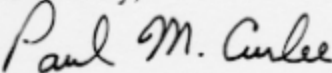
The accident took place at 0500 on a rainy Sunday morning. When Trooper Ortega arrived on the scene he was greeted by anxious and distraught motorists who claimed that the motorists responsible for the crash had left the scene of the accident. Furthermore the witnesses claimed that he fled the scene by pushing his battered car from the highway, back up the exit ramp gradient, onto the NW 37th street overpass.

Now most anyone, upon hearing such an account, would have thought: (yeah right, it would take at least the center and two guards from the Miami Dolphins, to push a bent and twisted automobile more than 1/2 mile up the hill and down the overpass.) Despite such a bizarre account, Trooper Ortega went in search of the alleged motorists.

In short order, Trooper Ortega returned to the accident scene, with the accused in the back seat of his patrol car. Despite the rainy conditions, the darkness of early morning, and one motorists now in custody, Trooper Ortega remained calm and professional while he interviewed all parties at the scene. He even took time to check on the health and well-being of the person in custody. Despite the battery of verbal abuse from the man in custody, Trooper Ortega maintained his disciplined and courteous demeanor while he made adjustments to his handcuffs.

It gives me a great peace of mind to know that when my wife and kids are traveling the roads of Florida that there are Troopers like Pedro Ortega watching over them. It is my sincere desire that this outstanding example of public service does not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Curlee