

July 9, 2002

Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Director, Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building (Mail Stop 40)
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500

Dear Sir,

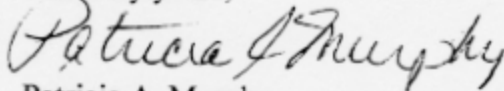
I am writing this letter to let you know what an outstanding police officer Sgt. Richard Ritter is. Just about a year ago on July 16, 2001 my husband Donald Murphy was killed on Interstate 4. Sgt. Ritter helped my daughters and me through the most difficult time of our lives. Not only did he give me my husband's personal belongings but went back to the car to retrieve my husband's gym bag which had our checkbook in it.

No matter how many times I call Sgt. Ritter with my countless questions, he responds very professionally and with genuine concern. It was and still is a comfort to me to know that there is someone at the Florida Highway Patrol I can count on. He kept me up to date on what was happening with the woman who killed my husband. He informed me that we could be in the courtroom and make an impact statement for the traffic court date. And when it came time for my family to be in court for the hearing of Ms. Applewhite, Sgt. Ritter was there to support us. He also brought with him a representative from the Victim's Advocacy to help us through a very difficult time.

Sgt. Ritter also informed me that the Florida Department of Transportation would put up a highway memorial to my husband and he gave the necessary information to get the memorial in place. He also let me know when the sign was up and took photos of it for me.

Sgt. Ritter goes above and beyond his duty. He is a compassionate officer who needs to be recognized. My husband served 26 years in the United States Air Force and I know first hand how important good personnel are to an organization. He would want me to write to you and let you know what an outstanding officer Sgt. Ritter is. Sgt. Ritter is a leader and does his job with the utmost professionalism.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia A. Murphy

