

Major B. R. Lee  
Florida Highway Patrol  
6300 N. W. 13th St.  
Gainesville, Florida 32653

Dear Major Lee,

First off, we must apologize for the delay in sending this letter.

On 5-9-82, we were traveling from Southern Florida to Indiana after completing our spring vacation. At approximately 11:30 PM, we had a flat tire on our SUV as we headed north on Interstate 75. Fortunately we were just a few miles from the Ellenville rest area, where we pulled in and pulled by a Florida patrol car.

We immediately began to unload the contents of the SUV in order to get to the store, needed to change the flat. Lucky for us, Corp. R. D. Thomas was in that patrol car and immediately proceeded to help us in our endeavor.

None of us had any experience in changing an SUV tire ... which is quite unlike changing a tire on your everyday sedan.

We feel that without Corp. Thomas' assistance, it would have taken us 2-3 times longer to complete the change.

Having already had a long day, and knowing we had a good 12 hour drive ahead of us, we certainly feel very lucky to have encountered Corp. Thomas.

His knowledge of our type of vehicle,  
his attitude, and pleasant persona  
helped turn an frustrating event into  
a heart-warming acknowledgement that there  
are people out there still willing to lend  
a hand when needed.

Please do not let the tardiness of this  
acknowledgment lessen its true and  
sincere purpose; which is our sincere  
gratitude to Corp Thomas for his help  
and advice.

It's good to know that the patrol service has  
someone like him on our highways. We left  
the Ellenville rest center in much better  
spirits than when we entered.

We thank Corp. Thomas for this chance  
encounter and wish him the best that life  
has to offer.

Sincerely,

Bill + Olga Fernandez