

[REDACTED]
September 7, 2003

SEP 10 2003

Officer Noah
Troop K
Florida Highway Patrol
P.O. Box 613070
Ocoee, Florida 34761

Dear Officer Noah,

I am writing to express my husband's and my gratitude for your levity and good humor on July 3, 2003, at mile marker 211 near Yee-Haw Junction on the Florida turnpike southbound sometime around 11 or 11:30 or noon that day.

In such a helpless moment for us, you were able to bring perspective and humor to a bewildering time. We had been travelling in the far right southbound lane when a particularly heavy rainfall and wind combined to take a driver of a truck from the northbound lane into our left side of the white Chevy Malibu. We'd spun about in a 180° arc and travelled backwards down the passing lane of the southbound turnpike--churned up grass and mud, and miraculously stopped completely unhurt in the median between the two directions of traffic.

Here we waited until you arrived. First, you checked the truck driver's condition and our conditions, and your opening words, "Folks, we're talking fractions of seconds here. I'm just so thankful no one is hurt," were our introduction to you. Then, later, as the first tow truck assisted the pickup and driver who had hit us out of the embankment, you assured us "the other driver seems like quite a nice fellow."

As time passed, you told us some of your own story and said, "This is more than luck. For some reason, we were all meant to meet up today." After procuring a tow truck for us, having a fire truck and crew come to check the vehicles, and completing all the work you do in an accident, you wished us well, and sent us on our way while you continued on yours.

Although this was a potentially bad moment, you stayed with us, were strong in your presence, deep in your knowledge of how things often do go wrong, assuring us this was, indeed, a **very** good day. We continued on to our family in Fort Lauderdale. Our daughter, who was visiting her friends in North Carolina, drove to meet us and drove us home. Then a few weeks later, she and Bob flew to Ft. Lauderdale to obtain the car after its repair and return with it to our home here.

We wish to thank you so much for your presence, your perspective, your wonderful sense of humor, and your professional manner. Our prayer would be that all drivers in such a situation could have an Officer Noah. Blessings to you and to your family. Even though you do not know us, we invite you to some northern hospitality with us. We are in the Albany, New York area--and you and your family would find gratitude and welcome from two travellers whom you helped in a very bad moment.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely and with fond wishes for a happy end of summer and beginning of autumn,


Johanna and Bob Shogan

cc: Director of the Florida Highway Patrol