

The Ledger

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FEB 08 2003

LOUIS M. PEREZ
Executive Editor

January 15, 2003

THE NEW YORK TIMES
REGIONAL NEWSPAPER GROUP

ALABAMA

Florence Times Daily
Gadsden Times
Tuscaloosa News

CALIFORNIA

Santa Rosa Press Democrat

FLORIDA

Gainesville Sun
The Ledger
Ocala Star-Banner
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

LOUISIANA

Houma Daily Courier
Thibodaux Daily Times

NORTH CAROLINA

Hendersonville Times-News
Lexington Dispatch
Wilmington Morning Star

SOUTH CAROLINA

Spartanburg Herald-Journal

Capt. Cuesta Tharpe
Florida Highway Patrol
11305 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Capt. Tharpe,

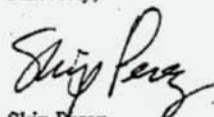
We greatly appreciate the cooperation we've had in recent weeks from your staff on news coverage.

Duty Officer Sandy Watkins and Duty Officer Wilcox helped our police reporters on several breaking stories. During Christmas week, Officer Watkins tracked down a press release that never made it to us, faxed it over and -- in the "extra effort" category -- even called our reporter to verify that we received it. That's classy.

We know your staff leads as frenzied a life as my staff does. Reporters' requests may not always be the #1 priority. We just ask that you and your staff do your best to give us what you can give us in a timely fashion so we can inform our readers about what's happening in their community -- and also about the good work of the FHP.

Thanks again for all the help.

Sincerely,



Skip Perez
Executive Editor