

May 19, 2004

Colonel Chris Knight,
Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

Dear Colonel Knight,

The hardest part of writing a letter for me even if the intent is complementary, is the opening sentence. So let me jump in and simply tell it as it is!

I was involved in an automobile accident that took place in Clermont, Florida on December 31, 2003. The accident was not my fault - I know you have heard that many times in your occupation!

When a Clermont Police Officer arrived at the scene, he would not give me a chance to explain what had happened. He called in a "Drivers Exchange" and whether he meant to or not, his lack of fairness to those involved, especially me, resulted in my being placed at fault for an accident that till the day I die (I'm 72 now) I will claim was not my fault!

The next serious situation in my life was an accident that my son had several months ago (I can read your thoughts - like father like son)! Anyway a State Trooper came to the scene of the accident. When he was finished with his investigation, there was no doubt who, what and why the accident occurred.

I was thankful my son and the other party had not been hurt but was flabbergasted by the extent and accuracy of the State Troopers' report compared to the "Drivers Exchange" that I got.

The ironic part of my accident was the fact that the other driver, his insurance company and a witness were able to move the point of contact from where it actually occurred, to about 200 feet west of said contact point. The Clermont Police Officers' report did not indicate the specific point of contact and even listed Highway 27 which is at least 1,000 feet west again of the actual point of contact!

So if you have read this far you may ask the question - why did you write to me when a State Trooper was not involved in your accident?

The answer is very simple. If a State Trooper had investigated my accident there is no doubt in my mind that I would not have been found at fault. I wish to thank you for the efforts of your (and mine too) State Troopers who do a great job which may oft times be taken for granted.

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And a special thank you for the effort of Sergeant Spencer M. Ross who was kind enough to listen to my sad tale, explain what the Troopers normally do and gave me a feeling that someone finally responded to questions concerning the do's and dont's of accident reporting!

So in closing even if it took a long time getting here, THANK YOU for the guys and gals like Sergeant Ross and the Trooper who responded to my sons accident.

Respectfully,

Frank P. Piccolo
Frank P. Piccolo

