


The Real Estate Exchange, Inc.

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Colonel Knight
Neil Kirkman Building
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: "Angels of Mercy" Troopers Paul Eakin & Wayne Funderburke

Dear Colonel Knight,

April 14th of last month; my girlfriend Faye Spaulding, Aunt Bessie Waters and myself were traveling from NC on Interstate 75 on our way to visit my sister in Naples, FL. It was late afternoon when we had a rear back tire to blow out on my SUV. The three of us scared to death. I immediately called Triple A on my cell phone. To make matters worse we had no idea where we were located on the Interstate. We did not know the mile marker number. However, we could see a rest area up ahead of us. I took the cell phone and when running down the side of the road trying to read the sign. After several minutes I could see it was the rest stop for the Ocala National Forrest.

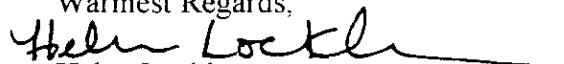
I walked back to the truck when two "Angles of Mercy" drove up. Officers Paul Eakin & Wayne Funderburke. The officers were traveling North on the Interstate when they saw us stranded on the South side of the road. They immediately advised Faye to move the vehicle farther off the road. We explained our situation and that we had called Triple A when Triple A called me back on my cell phone to get directions again. Even with additional directions from the officer; Triple A stated it would still be an hour or more before someone would be there to help us.

The officers didn't have the heart to leave us so they asked for my owner's manual and began reading how to change the tire. (The spare tire was underneath the SUV) They explained to us that they were retired Florida State Troopers that belonged to an Auxiliary Group of 450 members that worked the entire state of Florida.

Their sense of humor and pulling the cooler of the back of the truck to let my Aunt Bessie sit on it while changing that tire turned a dramatic experience into an experience that Aunt Bessie, 81 years young will have to talk about for the next 6 months.

Colonel Knight, somehow saying thank you to the officers that day was not enough. Thank you and all the Auxiliary Officers of the state of Florida from me, Faye, Aunt Bessie and all the people you help.

Warmest Regards,


Helen Locklear

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