

October 11, 2004

Colonel Christopher Knight
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Colonel Knight,

I wanted to thank you for sending those wonderful troopers, "chainsaw brigade": Emmett Perdue, Jimmie Davis, Jason Lemery, Hazen Ogden, Thomas Wood, Michael Grider, Joseph Gideons, Mike Merritt, and Jason Eason to my house. I have never needed so much help! We had three rooms destroyed, the back fence blown down, trees all over the yard, a tree on the roof, the roof was down to the ply board in a very large section, and the ceiling in the kitchen had fallen in. We had bailed water to exhaustion and just stopped. My husband was working the 6 pm to 6 am shift. Then one morning when he came in he announced there would be troopers here at 7 am to help. Those troopers came and saw what needed to be done and they did not stop until it was done. They cut and cleared trees, put tarps on the roof, and cleared all the debris. They carried the logs to the road and even found time to assist my neighbors.

I wanted you to say, "Thank you" and please pass this on to all those who had a hand in making the "Chainsaw Troopers" a reality. They did so much more than cut trees and clear debris. They gave us hope. They made us realize we would get through this devastation. It meant so much as it truly was troopers helping troopers. The highway patrol does take care of its own.

Sincerely,

Carol Mandell