



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

Director
Florida Highway Patrol
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500

July 3, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, I was pulled over by Trooper C.J. Kraus in the Pasco County area for exceeding the posted speed limit. I wanted to extend my deepest appreciation for the professionalism and common courtesy that Mr. Kraus extended me during that stop.

I did not tell Mr. Kraus the details of my situation: I was clearly speeding and in the wrong. What he did not know was that I just brought my 87 year-old mother home from the hospital the day before after having a stroke that left her paralyzed on half her body and being in the hospital for six weeks. I needed to pack her condo, put everything in storage, arrange for home health care help, manage her finances, and basically turn our lives upside down as we need to get up 4-5 times a night to help her with basic human tasks.

Now factor in our normal work-load and you can imagine why I just wanted to get home a little too quickly that night. I will confess that it took a bit of time for Trooper Kraus to finally flag me down. When he got out of the car, I saw his youthful appearance (I must be getting old) and I thought, "Great! All I need is a lecture from this young guy on top of everything else!"

As I mentioned, I did not offer all this up to Trooper Kraus. I just told him I had no excuses and realized that I was pushing it. His tone was not condescending. I believe he could tell I had had a difficult week. He was matter of fact, expressed concern about the danger I put myself as well as others in, and presented himself in a commendable manner. He provided me with a warning thus sparing me the expense of a citation.

It is heartening to know there are young men such as Trooper Kraus on the job who can apply good judgment and maintain a high degree of professionalism. I recognize his patience and hope you will recognize that he represents your department in a respectable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana L. Zeidler", written over a horizontal line.

Dana L. Zeidler, Ph.D.

Spring Hill, Florida 34610