

August 23, 2007

To: Colonel Christopher A. Knight  
From: Frank J. Ambrose  
Re: Trooper P. Payne

Dear Colonel Knight,

On Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at approximately 11:45AM my wife and I were south bound on I-95 around the 300 mile marker. I was driving our 37 foot Motorhome and had moved to the left lane to pass a slower moving motorhome. Suddenly there was a loud bang and we immediately realized that our front right tire had blown. The tires are new with less then 2000 miles on them. I managed to safely pull over off the right side of the road.

Prior to my retirement I had spent 24 years on the road as a Florida law enforcement officer. Last being Seminole County Sheriffs Office. I had been shot 25 years earlier while serving in the USMC in Vietnam. They left the AK-47 round in me saying it would never cause me any problems and was to close to my spine nerves to remove. The scar tissue that had formed around the round did cause problems 25 years later resulting in several surgeries. I regained all of my military privileges and became 100% permanent and totally disabled. The reason I am making you aware of this is because I know what is expected of law enforcement officers and their actions. I have never written a letter like this before so that in itself should tell you how exemplary this trooper was.

I was not sure of my location on I-95 and needed help so I called \*FHP. A short while later Trooper Phillip Payne arrived. ( I believe he is from Troop G in Palatka) From the moment he arrived, his attitude, courtesy, caring and his professionalism was obvious. He was obviously concerned for our safety, well being and assisting us in any way he could. I cannot say enough about this fine young trooper's attitude and professionalism. His professionalism reflects great pride on the Florida Highway patrol. Thanks to him we received the assistance we needed and were able to return home safely. Thank you for having young men like this who are the future of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Sincerely,  
Frank J. Ambrose



277 Tollgate Trail  
Longwood, FL. 32750