

September 2, 2008

Florida Highway Patrol Director  
Colonel John T. Czernis  
2900 Appalachian Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Colonel Czernis:

This letter is in appreciation of actions taken by Trooper Steve Wheeler, Badge # 276.

On August 15, 2008, my husband & I were on our way to Tampa Airport to see our first grandson in NJ when we had a massive blow out on the Sun Coast Parkway; south of Port Richey, Exit 54.

With it being rush hour & heavy traffic, traveling very fast, it was extremely dangerous to be on the side of the road trying to change a tire.

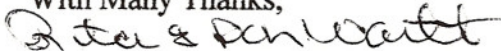
Trooper Wheeler past us & immediately turned around. He pulled up behind us with his lights flashing giving us a safety net to change the blown tire.

Trooper Wheeler did not hesitate to assist us in trying to figure out how to change the damaged tire....it seems you have to have an engineering degree to figure out what used to be so simple.

It took awhile, but we finally were on our way & with Trooper Wheeler's help we were able to make our scheduled flight & see our first beautiful grandson!

Our sincerest gratitude for his kindness & help. He is truly an asset to the Florida Highway Patrol .

With Many Thanks,



Rita & Don Waitt

COMMENT: How disheartening to see so many people ignoring the law by not pulling over to the far lane away from a police vehicle. Their job is dangerous enough & you would think people would have more consideration & plain common sense. Shame on them for having no respect for the law !! You know who you are !