



NASSAU COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

96135 Nassau Place, Box 1

Yulee, Florida 32097



C. W. COOPER
Fire Chief

J. S. YOUNG
Assistant Chief

R. R. WEST
Operations Chief

April 20, 2009

FHP Chief Grady Carrick
7322 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205-6261

RE: Special Commendation

Dear Chief Carrick:

I take this opportunity to request a special commendation for Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Danyen Komorek for putting her life on the line with her immediate actions beyond the call of duty as she safely removed a driver from a burning vehicle.

FHP Trooper Danyen Komorek observed smoke coming from the wooded tree line on the east shoulder of the roadway as she traveled northbound on Interstate 95. As she approached the area she observed the passenger van on fire that had apparently traveled off the roadway down an embankment through a ditch filled with water and struck a large tree.

Without hesitation Trooper Komorek exited her patrol car and ran towards the burning vehicle, which was resting in the ditch filled with water approximately 3 feet deep. As she entered the water she observed a male driver behind the wheel with facial injuries and very disoriented.

Trooper Komorek opened the driver's door and tried to communicate with him, but he was unresponsive and unaware of his situation. As the fire quickly progressed to the engine compartment and windshield area of the vehicle, Trooper Komorek grabbed the driver's upper arm and pulled him out of the vehicle.

Trooper Komorek, with the assistance of FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance Officer Donald Horne, then placed the driver on the grass shoulder at a safe distance from the vehicle and remained with him providing medical aid until Nassau County Fire Rescue arrived.

The Nassau County Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire and treated the driver for his injuries. He was then transported to Shands Jacksonville Hospital for further treatment. Trooper Komorek's investigation later revealed that the driver suffered from a severe diabetic problem, which was the reason he was disoriented and had no recollection of what had taken place.

Had it not been for Trooper Komorek being at the right place at the right time and her heroic, quick and unselfish actions responding to this life-threatening situation, the driver may not have survived.

Trooper Komorek represented herself in the highest traditions of the most elite law enforcement organization of our state.

Respectfully,

Chuck Cooper

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APR 22 2009

TROOP COMMANDER'S
OFFICE

(904) 491.7525 or (866) 832.1317

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