

Julie L. Jones
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500
www.flhsmv.gov



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Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

March 1, 2013

Trooper Gualberto Morales
Florida Highway Patrol
5023 53rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203

Dear Trooper Morales:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol Trooper of the Month for January 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Monday, January 21, 2013 you were dispatched to reports of Beacon/Strobe activation. As you arrived on the scene you received information that a vehicle had exited the roadway and entered the water. After requesting rescue divers, you entered the water and attempted to rescue the trapped occupants.

With the water pressure working against you, you made several attempts to open the car doors and shatter the windows to free the trapped motorists. You continued to try and save the occupants until the dive team arrived approximately sixteen minutes later. Although your attempts were unsuccessful, you are to be commended for your repetitive heroic efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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April 4, 2013

Trooper Ernest Hunt
Florida Highway Patrol
2100 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308-6199

Dear Trooper Hunt:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol Trooper of the Month for February 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Tuesday, February 19, 2013 you were dispatched to a vehicle driving the wrong direction on the interstate. With the assistance of Trooper David Cox, you were able to intercept the vehicle, conduct a traffic stop and remove the vehicle from the roadway.

By being diligent and dedicated to your profession, you and Trooper Cox intervened and prevented what was destined to be a tragic outcome. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the citizens of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

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Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
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May 2, 2013

Corporal Gary Dunick
Florida Highway Patrol
1011 N.W. 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Corporal Dunick:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for March 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013 you were traveling on US-1 when you observed a vehicle matching the description of one wanted in connection with an Amber Alert. You ran the tag and it came back as the vehicle from the BOLO. After stopping the vehicle all three children were located in the vehicle and appeared to be in good health. The children were taken into protective custody by the Department of Children and Family Services and transported to Key West.

You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the citizens of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

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Colonel David H. Brierton
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June 3, 2013

Trooper Alina Pinto
Florida Highway Patrol
1011 N.W. 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Pinto:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for April 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Monday, April 8, 2013 while conducting a traffic crash investigation, you were informed that a vehicle was on fire ahead of your location. You immediately responded and upon arrival, you rushed to the vehicle to check for passengers. When you opened the front door, flames erupted from inside and underneath the vehicle. You were able to move out of the way in time to avoid any injuries. After the flare up, you continued to search the vehicle for passengers. It was determined that all passengers were safely on the shoulder of the road.

You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the citizens of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

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Colonel David H. Brierton
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Florida Highway Patrol

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July 10, 2013

Trooper Raymond Eldridge
Florida Highway Patrol
3247 Lakeland Hills Boulevard
Lakeland, FL 33805-2266

Dear Trooper Eldridge:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for May 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Wednesday, May 22, while off-duty, as you exited from Interstate 4 onto US-27, you noticed a vehicle stopped on the ramp and a female lying on the ground beside the vehicle. After stopping and offering your assistance, the female stated that she was not feeling well and thought she may be having a heart attack. Unable to make contact with 911, you contacted the TBRCC and requested an ambulance to respond to the scene.

You remained at the scene comforting the female and her daughter until Trooper Allen Jones and Polk County Fire and Rescue could arrive. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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August 2, 2013

Trooper Santos Lopez
Florida Highway Patrol
P.O. Box 613070
Ocoee, FL 34761-3070

Dear Trooper Lopez:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for June 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Friday, June 28, 2013, you were dispatched to the area of mile post 222 for a possible hitchhiker. After searching the area with no success, you responded to the Canoe Creek Service Plaza to look for the subject. Upon entering the service plaza you asked the clerk if she had seen a suspicious male in the area. The clerk stated that there was a male that had just gone out the side door as you entered the store. You exited the store and observed the subject. The subject responded to you by turning and taking an aggressive offensive stance. The male reached into the rear lower back area of his shirt and was disobeying your demands to stop. A witness yelled that the subject had a gun. You then drew your weapon and the subject ran behind the store. A witness advised you that the subject had thrown the weapon over the wall behind the store. You recovered the weapon and then proceeded to locate the subject again. The convenience store clerk informed you that the subject had entered the restroom area. You evacuated the store and attempted to call the subject out of the rest room. The subject exited the restroom and was arrested without incident.

It was determined that the subject was wanted and had two active warrants out of the state of Missouri. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

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Colonel David H. Brierton
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Florida Highway Patrol

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September 11, 2013

Trooper Justin Davis
Florida Highway Patrol
2100 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308-6199

Dear Trooper Davis:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for July 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Wednesday, July 8, 2013, you received a call from the Tallahassee Regional Communications Center in reference to a double homicide suspect traveling eastbound on I-10 in a red Dodge Charger.

You, along with Leon County Deputies, initiated a felony traffic stop of the suspect. The suspect fired shots from his vehicle and you quickly returned fire. Although the suspect ultimately took his own life during the traffic stop, your quick actions and attention to duty prevented more lives from being placed in danger.

You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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October 8, 2013

Trooper Carlos Garcia
1011 N.W. 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Garcia:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for August 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, you responded to a three vehicle hit and run crash with injuries. Upon arriving at the scene you heard screams coming from a vehicle that had rolled over. Without hesitation, you entered the vehicle and provided first aid to the driver and passenger until help could arrive.

Unfortunately the driver did not survive the crash and expired on the scene. However, your actions saved the life of the passenger and he was thankful to you and expressed his sincerity during the next of kin notification.

You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

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Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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December 5, 2013

Trooper Dennis Rich
11305 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Trooper Rich:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for September 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Tuesday, September 24, 2013, you were investigating a crash in the eastbound lanes of I-4, a motorist stopped in the median to get your assistance. The driver of the vehicle and his wife were on their way from Brandon to St. Joseph's Hospital for the delivery of their new baby. Realizing that the birth was imminent, you immediately responded and moments later helped deliver a healthy baby girl. You immediately notified TBRCC and requested Hillsborough County Fire Rescue to respond. Upon their arrival, mother and baby were transported to St. Joseph's Hospital for observation and treatment.

As a result of your quick actions, the baby arrived healthy and without any complications. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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December 5, 2013

Trooper Simon Castro
1011 N.W. 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Castro:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for October 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, you were investigating a crash northbound on SR826 when one of the drivers began to feel ill and complained of having strong chest pains, difficulty breathing and the loss of feeling in his hands and legs. You notified MRCC about his situation and requested assistance from the Miami Dade Fire Rescue. The driver began to have a seizure, followed by loss of consciousness and eventually stopped breathing. You opened the driver's airway and checked for a pulse and discovered that he did not have one. You immediately began CPR, and as a result, the driver regained his ability to breath; however, a short time later he suffered another seizure. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue arrived on the scene taking over the medical care and transported him to Metropolitan Hospital where he was stabilized by medical personnel.

Without your quick response and decisive action, there could have been grave consequences. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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January 16, 2014

Trooper Billy Herrera
1011 NW 111th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Herrera:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for November 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Friday, November 1, 2013, you were at home off duty when a neighbor came knocking on your door screaming and shouting for help. You opened the door and observed your neighbor carrying her grandson, who was unresponsive and not breathing. You took the grandson, placed him on the floor and immediately started CPR. Meanwhile, the mother of the child was on the phone with 911. After performing CPR the child started to release fluid from his mouth and then had a seizure. Once the seizure finished you started CPR again until the child became responsive and opened his eyes and started to breathe. You stayed with the child holding him until Fire Rescue arrived. The child was transported to Kendall Regional Hospital and was later released and is doing well.

As a result of your quick actions, the child recovered without any complications. You are commended for your actions during this incident and your demonstrated commitment to the residents of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

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February 3, 2014

Trooper Lawrence A. Litzell
7322 Normandy Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Dear Trooper Litzell:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for December 2013, for your actions during a single month.

On Saturday, December 28, 2013, you attempted to stop a speeding vehicle. The driver refused to stop and subsequently fled northbound, at which time, you disengaged your emergency equipment and terminated the pursuit. Within minutes, you spotted the vehicle and observed the driver and passenger exit the vehicle and flee on foot. You followed the driver for a short distance before you exited the vehicle and pursued the suspect on foot. As you overtook and physically engaged the fleeing suspect, you were shot in the face. In a fight for your own survival, you drew your handgun and returned fire, striking and killing the suspect.

Although exposed to extreme aggression and imminent danger, you performed your law enforcement duties in an exemplary manner and are to be commended for your bravery and courage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. H. Brierton".

Colonel David H. Brierton
Director
Florida Highway Patrol