

**Julie L. Jones**  
Executive Director

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



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Pam Bondi**  
Attorney General

**Jeff Atwater**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Adam Putnam**  
Commissioner of Agriculture

March 13, 2014

Major Sammie Thomas, Jr.  
Florida Highway Patrol  
1011 N.W. 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Major Thomas:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for January 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Monday, January 20, 2014, your neighbor knocked on your door to ask for help in locating her 2-year old child who had been missing for about 20 minutes. You and an on duty Miami-Dade County Police Officer, Officer J. Brennan, canvassed the area by the lake located near the house because it was the most vulnerable place for the child. A security guard noticed a tennis shoe in the water and called for you and Officer Brennan. After taking a better look, you told Officer Brennan that you saw the child, both of you jumped into the lake and swam towards the child, however, upon reaching the child you noticed that he was unresponsive. You and Officer Brennan retrieved the child and swam towards the shore.

At the shoreline, you, Officer Brennan and another Miami-Dade Officer performed CPR on the child until EMS arrived and took over. The child was airlifted to Miami Children's Hospital for advanced medical treatment. In this effort, you received a minor injury and were exposed to biohazards from the water in the lake and while performing CPR on the child.

Although your attempts to save the child were unsuccessful, you are to be commended for your heroic efforts 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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March 24, 2014

Trooper Yudiel Santana  
Florida Highway Patrol  
1011 N.W. 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Santana:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for February 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, you responded to a crash on State Road 112 and the North Miami Avenue exit ramp. Upon arrival, a witness advised you that the driver of the vehicle was not breathing and had no pulse. You got the driver out of the vehicle and began to perform CPR along with a City of Miami Beach Police Officer. The victim regained consciousness just as the City of Miami Fire Rescue unit arrived. He was transported to the Ryder Trauma Center where he has since been released.

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

May 13, 2014

Corporal Gene Hunt  
Florida Highway Patrol  
2100 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Corporal Hunt:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for March 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, you received information from Trooper Sterling Safford about a possible drowning of a child in a pond off Spring Meadow Road in Gadsden County. Upon arrival you observed several Gadsden County Deputies in the pond searching for the child.

With disregard for your own safety, you swam out into the water to look for the child. You, along with Gadsden County Deputy Tiffany Parsons, located the child and brought him to shore. Paramedics with Gadsden County EMS who were on scene attempted to resuscitate the child but were unsuccessful.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

June 2, 2014

Trooper Jeffrey A. Benoit  
Florida Highway Patrol  
5023 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East  
Bradenton, FL 34203-4134

Dear Trooper Benoit:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for April 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Sunday, April 20, 2014, while off-duty and on board JetBlue Airways, an unidentified male sitting in front of you began to experience a seizure. You identified yourself to the crew as a Florida State Trooper and trained first responder. While holding the subject in an attempt to prevent injury to himself, he bit through his tongue. You requested gloves from the flight attendant and once the subject stopped convulsing, you held a c-spine and checked the subject's airway, breathing and circulation. The subject began to choke and you opened the subject's mouth and opened his airway. You held a c-spine until the subject regained consciousness and EMS arrived.

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,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

July 11, 2014

Trooper James Whitmore  
Florida Highway Patrol  
1350 W. US Highway 90, Suite 101  
Lake City, FL 32055

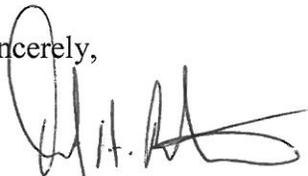
Dear Trooper Whitmore:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for May 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Sunday, May 18, 2014, you responded to a crash involving a tractor trailer and a passenger car. Upon arrival you found the driver and three small children entrapped in the vehicle. You climbed onto the vehicle and forced the window down and then assisted the driver out of the vehicle. However, before you could remove the children from the car, the engine compartment caught fire. Unable to extinguish the fire, you broke the right front window to allow them to breathe. You continued to fight the fire until the Marion County Fire Rescue units arrived and were able to put out the fire and extract the children from the back seat.

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,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

August 18, 2014

Trooper Jared Bruggeman  
Florida Highway Patrol  
133 South Semoran Blvd., Suite A  
Orlando, FL 32807

Dear Trooper Bruggeman:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for June 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Tuesday, June 24, 2014, you responded to a traffic crash. Upon arrival you met with a female who had been involved in a single vehicle crash. During your investigation you identified the driver as a suspect in an attempted homicide and child neglect. Even though you have only been on the road solo since May 2014, you were able to quickly identify the suspect, interview the suspect and witnesses and obtain the required information so that an arrest could be made.

During the investigation, you found three children all under the age of five in an unattended vehicle that had been used in the attempted homicide. You immediately provided care for the children and contacted the father so you could turn the children over to him.

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,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

September 5, 2014

Trooper William Lopez  
Florida Highway Patrol  
1011 N.W. 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33172

Dear Trooper Lopez:

Congratulations for being selected as a *co-recipient* of the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for July 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Wednesday, July 2, 2014, City of Miami Police requested FHP K9 assistance in apprehending a home invasion suspect with a violent criminal history that had fled on foot from a stolen vehicle. After searching the yards of several homes, you and K9 Dany located the subject hiding in a large bush. The subject failed to surrender and subsequently sustained a bite from K9 Dany. Sergeant Torres was the backup officer and successfully handcuffed the subject and handled the use of control report.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

October 16, 2014

Trooper Nathan K. Stidham  
Florida Highway Patrol  
2100 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308-6199

Dear Trooper Stidham:

Congratulations for being selected as a *co-recipient* of the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for August 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Sunday, August 17, 2014, the Tallahassee Regional Communications Center received a "be on the lookout" (BOLO) message for a vehicle that was occupied by four adults and a ten-month old child that had been abducted in Jacksonville.

While working State Road 8 (Interstate 10) you and Trooper John Sleighter observed a vehicle matching the description and initiated a traffic stop. You and Trooper Sleighter were able to verify that you had the correct vehicle and were able to remove the child safely from harm's way. The child was taken into protective custody and returned to St. Johns County. The four suspects were arrested and transported to the Madison County jail.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

December 16, 2014

Trooper Carissa R. Fields  
Florida Highway Patrol  
11319 Ponce DeLeon Boulevard  
Brooksville, FL 34601-8642

Dear Trooper Fields:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for September 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Friday, September 19, 2014, while investigating a multiple vehicle hit and run crash in Sumter County, you responded to the address of the hit and run driver. Upon arrival you found the driver and a Sumter County deputy standing in the garage area of the home. While interviewing the elderly driver you noticed that the driver began to experience conditions that didn't seem normal and you identified them as precursors to a stroke or a mini-stroke.

You then aborted the crash investigation and questioned the driver as to his medical history. He revealed that he had suffered a stroke earlier in the year. As you stayed with the driver, you asked the Sumter County deputy to summon EMS to their location. Soon EMS arrived and discovered that the driver was in fact experiencing an Atrial Fibrillation. The driver agreed to be transported to Leesburg Hospital for further treatment.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

January 16, 2014

Trooper Danielle Poulin  
Florida Highway Patrol  
7651 US 19 North  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Dear Trooper Poulin:

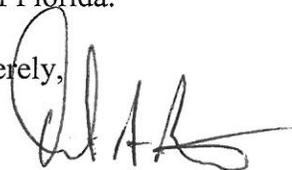
Congratulations for being selected as a *co-recipient* of the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for October 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Wednesday, October 29, 2014, while you and Trooper James Bregon were patrolling US Highway 19 you came upon the scene of two traffic crashes involving five vehicles. One of the drivers involved in one of the crashes was conscious, alert and checked by EMS personnel, but refused treatment. While you conducted your investigation you went to find the driver to ask him some additional questions and found him lying on the ground unconscious. EMS was requested as you and Trooper Bregon began to assess the driver's condition.

Hearing the situation over the radio, Sergeant Ada responded to your location from the second crash scene. The driver was not breathing and had no pulse. Sergeant Ada initiated CPR on the driver. You immediately joined Sergeant Ada in performing CPR. Corporal Doug Guy arrived on scene and began to employ his Automatic Electronic Defibrillator and lifesaving efforts continued until EMS could arrive and take over. The driver was transported to Mease Countryside Hospital and was admitted to ICU in critical condition.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

January 16, 2015

Trooper Bradford Wagner  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Post Office 613070  
Ocoee, FL 34761-3070

Dear Trooper Wagner:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for November 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Thursday, November 27, 2014, while traveling northbound on the Suncoast Parkway, you observed a male standing next to a vehicle frantically trying to wave for help. Upon stopping to help, you observed the subject's wife had a seatbelt wrapped around her throat and had lost consciousness. You took lifesaving actions by cutting the seatbelt and rendering aid which allowed her to start breathing again. You continued to provide assistance until EMS arrived.

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,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol

February 12, 2015

Trooper Mark Baker  
Florida Highway Patrol  
2100 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Trooper Baker:

Congratulations for being selected as the Florida Highway Patrol *Trooper of the Month* for December 2014, for your actions during a single month.

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, you conducted a traffic stop for illegal window tint. Upon making contact with the driver, you detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. While you waited for backup to arrive, the passenger of the vehicle began to flee carrying a large object. You began to chase the suspect and he drew a weapon. You immediately stopped and drew your firearm while giving him commands to toss his weapon to the ground. The suspect was taken into custody and the weapon recovered.

Upon returning to the traffic stop scene, you were informed by a witness that the driver of the vehicle discarded an Army-type bag in the construction zone. You were able to locate the bag as well as conduct a search of the vehicle which revealed a handgun, currency, drugs and drug paraphernalia.

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

Sincerely,



Colonel David H. Brierton  
Director  
Florida Highway Patrol