

JAMES W. MCMAHON
SUPERINTENDENT



STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK STATE POLICE

TROOP D HEADQUARTERS
RT. 5 PO BOX 30
ONEIDA, NEW YORK 13421-0030

October 1, 1998

Trooper Steven M. Kelley
New York State Police
Troop E
Canandaigua, New York 14424

Dear Trooper Kelley:

I want to take the time to commend and sincerely thank you for the assistance you provided while assigned to the 1998 New York State Fair.

As you know, during the early hours of September 7, 1998, a devastating storm swept through Central New York and struck at the heart of the State Fair. Damage to the Fairgrounds was in the millions of dollars, but more consequential, two workers lost their lives. This resulted in the decision to cancel the remaining day of the State Fair.

Throughout our careers as State Troopers, we often plan for incidents of a serious nature. In this case disaster struck the State Fair. In an extraordinary display of coordination with local emergency response organizations, you responded and assisted in caring for the injured, secured the fairgrounds, and evacuated more than 400 fair workers. You, teamed with hundreds of other State Police and emergency personnel to maintain calm, were crucial to the recovery efforts of this disaster. Often overlooked after a major incident are the abilities of individual members and the significance of working in a multiple agency environment.

The experience, dedication, and professionalism shown by you at the 1998 New York State Fair only enhances the fine tradition of the New York State Police. Again, I commend you on a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James G. Parmley".

JAMES G. PARMLEY
MAJOR
NEW YORK STATE FAIR
DETAIL COMMANDER