

HARRY J. CORBITT
SUPERINTENDENT



MARK A. KOSS
TROOP COMMANDER

NEW YORK STATE POLICE
TROOP "E" HEADQUARTERS - CANANDAIGUA
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December 30, 2008

Trooper Steven M. Kelley
New York State Police
Troop "E"
Waterloo, New York

Steve
Dear Trooper Kelley:

On September 19, 2008, the Waterloo Village Police Department requested State Police assistance with an ongoing investigation involving the theft of numerous bronze plaques from cemetery stones located within the Village.

Working with Investigator Kristen Fleming, a suspect was identified. You interviewed two subjects who admitted to stealing plaques, and you were shown a location where they had been discarded. On your own time, you utilized hip waders and a boat in an attempt to recover these items from a body of water in the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. When unsuccessful, Division divers were called, and numerous plaques were recovered from the water in various forms. You helped to identify two other suspects that turned in 241 pounds of plaque pieces at a local scrap yard, and upon interviewing them, they admitted their involvement to you. Ultimately, four subjects admitted to and were charged with Cemetery Desecration, Grand Larceny, and other sundry charges.

The diligence and tenacity that you displayed resulted in the successful closure of this high profile case, and the recovery of stolen property. Also, your efforts to recover this property went above and beyond expectation, and reflect the finest traditions of the New York State Police. You are commended for your efforts and a job well done. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Koss, Major
Troop "E" Commander