

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PATRICK G. HALPIN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 28, 1990

Sergeant Brian Bugge
6th Precinct

Dear Sergeant Bugge:

On behalf of the 1.3 million citizens of Suffolk County, I would like to express my appreciation for your heroic efforts in responding to the tragic crash of an Avianca jet on the evening of January 25.

Although as a Suffolk police officer you display heroism and bravery every day, your actions at the crash site were particularly outstanding. Nassau County officials have contacted me to reiterate this point and thank the department for its assistance.

Witnessing a tragedy of this proportion can devastate anyone. That is why it took superior efforts to work effectively in an unfamiliar operation at the crash site.

Whether it is fighting the war on drugs or patrolling our neighborhoods, the Suffolk County Police Department has proven to be the finest in the nation. Clearly, your work demonstrates that the Police Department can be equally effective in responding to the unexpected.

That's why the people of Suffolk County feel safe. Once again, I offer you my congratulations for a job well done.

Sincerely,

PATRICK G. HALPIN
Suffolk County Executive

PGH:ba

THOMAS S. GULOTTA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE BUILDING
ONE WEST STREET
MINEOLA, N.Y. 11501-4895

April 5, 1990

Sergeant Brian Bugge
Suffolk County Police Department
Yaphank Avenue
6th Precinct
Yaphank, New York 11980

Dear Sergeant Bugge,

For years the fire services in conjunction with the Police Department and Emergency Medical Services trained for an eventuality which we all hoped would never occur. On the evening of January 25, 1990 that eventuality became a reality when the Avianca Boeing 707 crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island. Along with many of the 1,000 volunteers, I spent 12 hours at the crash site lending support and assistance whenever possible. It was a tragedy of the kind that I have never before witnessed, and hope never to have to witness again.

I saw firsthand the incredible commitment and dedication of the volunteers and paid personnel alike, who worked in a coordinated fashion with the sole objective of evacuating the survivors and providing them with emergency aid and assistance. I credit the police and fire departments, along with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the professional and support staff of area hospitals with the fact that there are so many survivors who are currently on the road to recovery.

I am deeply proud of your participation and assistance in the Avianca air disaster. Your actions represent the finest qualities of humanity. I know that the survivors, their families and friends deeply appreciate your help.

Thank you for caring enough to make a difference.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Gulotta".

THOMAS S. GULOTTA
County Executive

TSG:wag