

SARASOTA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES



LETTER OF COMMENDATION

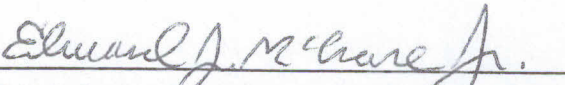
**Patricia Abrams
Sarasota K-9 Search & Rescue Team**

In 1994 you and your husband Joe Abrams founded a search group called, the Sarasota K-9 Search and Rescue Team. This team was built on the premise of finding the lost, educating the community on safety, and working professionally side by side with all agencies to provide successful outcomes to emergency operations and search missions. Over the years the team has had many successful missions and received numerous awards and recognition. The most recent recognition came in the form of a resolution from Governor Rick Scott and members of his cabinet recognizing the team's accomplishments and the importance of your work. Sarasota K-9 search and Rescue has earned the respect and admiration from the State of Florida and numerous local government law enforcement and emergency services agencies.

While serving as the leader of this team, you decided to expand your safety education for children by writing a series of books. The first two books of this series, Noah and the Search Dogs, and The Story of Boo have been published and are already proving to be a hit with children. These colorful books loaded with photos of the search dogs in action, contain easy to understand safety messages for children and are already proving to be a very effective way to educate children everywhere about safety.

The importance of your efforts is highlighted by the recent senseless attack at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut where 20 elementary school students and 6 adults were killed by a mentally disturbed man. It has also come to my attention that after this event, you sent a letter and several books to the faculty of Sandy Hook Elementary on behalf of the team to help comfort the children. Your genuine concern for the safety of our citizens and especially our children is commendable and deeply appreciated by all.

I use this letter as an opportunity to express my appreciation for a job well done. Your actions are a direct reflection of your professionalism and devotion to duty. You have greatly contributed to the mission of Sarasota County Emergency Services and have provided excellent support and education to the citizens of Sarasota County and the State of Florida.


Ed McCrane, Emergency Management Chief

January 24, 2013