

**From: NY Waterway
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YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwIe-e7Apkc>



NY WATERWAY FERRY CREWS SAVED 143 PEOPLE FROM HUDSON IN MOST SUCCESSFUL MARINE RESCUE IN AVIATION HISTORY

NY Waterway ferry crews reacted instantly to the crash of US Airways Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009, saving 143 of the 155 passengers and crew on board in the most successful marine rescue in aviation history. The U.S. Coast Guard and the New York City Fire Department also rescued 12 people.

“We are enormously proud of the men and women of NY Waterway, the ferry crews who rushed to the rescue and saved 143 people from the Hudson River,” said NY Waterway President & Founder Arthur E. Imperatore. “Our captains and deckhands did not wait for orders. They responded quickly and surely. The extensive training and dedication to duty nurtured in our company kicked in and our people got the job done as they did on 9/11 and on so many other occasions when people were in trouble on the water.

“It is an honor to work with these dedicated people.”

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NY Waterway Rescue – page 2

A total of 14 NY Waterway ferries responded to the crash, on the Hudson River at 42nd Street, and seven of those ferries removed almost all of those passengers within minutes. Passengers were taken to NY Waterway ferry terminals at West 39th Street in Manhattan and Port Imperial in Weehawken, where office staff had established triage centers and provided their own coats and other items to people who had been exposed to the 30-degree waters of the Hudson River.

Experts have said that if these ferry crews had not responded as quickly as they did, many people would have died or suffered severe effects of hypothermia.

For example, Capt. Vincent Lombardi had just pulled the ferry *Thomas Jefferson* away from West 39th Street, the 3:30 p.m. departure, when Flight 1549 drifted in front of him. He was next to the plane in three minutes as deckhands Hector Rabanes and Wilfredo Rivera deployed the Jason's Cradle and pulled 56 people on board.

Capt. Manny Liba and his crew on the *Moira Smith* rescued 14 people. Capt. Brittany Catanzaro and her crew on the *Gov. Thomas Kean* saved 24 people. A minute later, Capt. Vincent LuCante on the ferry *Yogi Berra* was there, as Capt. Mike Starr, who had jumped aboard at the work dock, pulled in 22 people, including two babies.

When New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg asked NY Waterway Vice President of Ferry Operations Alan Warren what his crews were thinking when they saw the plane in the water, Warren answered: "We don't think. We just react."

NY Waterway ferry crews are featured in the film "*Sully*," starring Tom Hanks.

NY Waterway crews drill constantly in water rescues and have saved more than 100 people from the waters of New York Harbor.

On 9/11, NY Waterway crews moved within minutes to the seawall one block from the World Trade Center and began evacuating people. Ferry crews, personally directed by Arthur E. Imperatore, Jr., moved 150,000 people from Manhattan that day.

In the August 13, 2003, blackout, when all trans-Hudson traffic was shut down, NY Waterway ferried 160,000 people home to New Jersey.

For more information, click on www.nywaterway.com

Vessels and Crews Which Participated in the Rescue

Vessel: **Thomas Jefferson**

Captain Vincent Lombardi
Hector Rabanes
Wilfredo Rivera
Rescued from plane: 56
22 ferry passengers

Vessel: **Yogi Berra**

Captain Vince Lucante
Captain Michael Starr
Rescued from plane: 24
(1 infant and 1 child)

Vessel: **Athena**

Captain Carl Lucas
Luis Salerno
Danny Convery
Rescued from plane: 19 (this included
the Pilot)

Vessel: **Moira Smith**

Captain Manny Liba
Natale Binetti
Gulio Farnese
Rescued from Plane: 14

Vessel: **Thomas Kean**

Captain Brittany Catanzaro
Osman Berete
Cosmo Mezzina
Rescued from plane: 26

Vessel: **Admiral Richard Bennis**

Captain John Winiarski
Frank Illuzzi
Rescued from plane: 3

Vessel: **George Washington**

Captain Mohamed Gouda
Jose Torres
Pepe Carumba
Gregorio Pages
Rescued from plane: 1