



NY WATERWAY®

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13 YEARS-AGO SATURDAY: NY WATERWAY FERRY CREWS SAVED 143 PEOPLE IN MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON, MOST SUCCESSFUL MARINE RESCUE IN AVIATION HISTORY

View photos and video of the Miracle on the Hudson rescue [ADD LINKS LATER]

13 years-ago this coming Saturday, January 15, NY Waterway ferry crews reacted instantly to the crash of US Airways Flight 1549, saving 143 of the 155 passengers and crew pulled from the water in the Miracle on the Hudson, the most successful marine rescue in aviation history. The U.S. Coast Guard and the New York City Fire Department rescued an additional 12 people.

Long before the dramatic 2009 rescue, NY Waterway ferries and their crews have stood ready and able to assist in any emergency, from water rescues to major evacuations.

“The same men and women who carry our riders to work every day respond as heroes in times of crisis. Because of our crews’ training and professionalism, they pulled 143 people from the Hudson in minutes on that cold January day. We’re so proud of our role in the Miracle on the Hudson,” said **NY Waterway Chairman, CEO and President Armand Pohan**.

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 passengers within minutes, taking them to 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.

Captain 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 deployed the Jason’s Cradle and pulled 56 people on board.

The **Moira Smith** rescued 14 people. The crew on the **Gov. Thomas Kean** saved 24 people. A minute later, the ferry **Yogi Berra** was there pulling 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 Participating in the Miracle on the Hudson Rescue:

Vessel: Thomas Jefferson

Rescued from plane: 56

Vessel: Yogi Berra

Rescued from plane: 24 (including 1 infant and 1 child)

Vessel: Athena

Rescued from plane: 19 (this included the pilot)

Vessel: Moira Smith

Rescued from Plane: 14

Vessel: Thomas Kean

Rescued from plane: 26

Vessel: Admiral Richard Bennis

Rescued from plane: 3

Vessel: George Washington

Rescued from plane: 1

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