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



2009 Coast Guard video of the NY Waterway ferries coming to the rescue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwIe-e7Apkc>

12 years-ago this coming Friday, January 15, NY Waterway ferry crews reacted instantly to the crash of US Airways Flight 1549, saving 143 of the 155 passengers and crew on board 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 also rescued 12 people.

Since the dramatic 2009 rescue, NY Waterway ferries and their crews have stood ready and able to assist in any emergency, including saving a man from the waters near Manhattan's Pier 25 this past August.

“Nobody hesitated that day. Nobody waited for someone else to give orders. From the most junior deckhand to the leadership in HQ, the people of NY Waterway sprang into action and saved lives,” said **NY Waterway Chairman Armand Pohan**. “Because of our crews’ training and professionalism, they pulled 143 people from the Hudson in minutes. During this difficult time, it’s so important to remember that spirit and our sense of service to each other.”

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 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

(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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