



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ADVISORY: NY WATERWAY CAPTAINS MARK 14<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON WHEN THEY RESCUED 143 PEOPLE FROM THE CRASH**

*Captain Vincent Lombardi and Captain Mohamed Gouda from the rescue will be available for interview on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at the Port Imperial Ferry Terminal in Weehawken*

14 years-ago this coming Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. On Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, NY Waterway will mark the day and avail captains who helped lead the rescue for interview.

**What:** Interview opportunity with NY Waterway personnel who responded to the crash of Flight 1549

**When:** Thursday, January 12, 11am-12pm

**Who:** Captains Vincent Lombardi and Mohamed Gouda, who were on the scene rescuing passengers

**Where:** Port Imperial Ferry Terminal, Weehawken, NJ

**Please RSVP** to [hgammond@rubenstein.com](mailto:hgammond@rubenstein.com)

**Photos and video** of the NY Waterway ferries during the 2009 rescue.

For more information on the Miracle On The Hudson rescue visit [nywaterway.com/miracle](http://nywaterway.com/miracle)

**About NY Waterway's Role in the Miracle on the Hudson:**

A total of 14 NY Waterway ferries responded to the crash, on the Hudson River at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and seven of those ferries removed almost all of those passengers within minutes. Passengers were taken to NY Waterway ferry terminals at West 39<sup>th</sup> 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 then-NYC 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.

This past December, NY Waterway rescued more than 500 passengers from a Staten Island Ferry disabled by an engine room fire.

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.

### **Vessels and Crews Participating 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 (including 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

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