



NY WATERWAY®

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The Miracle on the Hudson: 17 Years Later

**NY WATERWAY COMMEMORATES THE DAY FERRY CREWS SAVED 143 PEOPLE IN
MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON, MOST SUCCESSFUL MARINE RESCUE IN AVIATION
HISTORY**

Weehawken, NJ (January 15, 2026) – Today, NY Waterway, which operates the largest ferry fleet between New Jersey and New York, marks the 17th anniversary of the Miracle on the Hudson, the historic day when 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 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.

“We will always remain honored to have played a central role in the Miracle on the Hudson, one of the most inspiring days in our city’s history,” said NY Waterway President & CEO Armand Pohan. “The same men and women who transport our passengers every day rose to the moment as heroes during a time of crisis and helped turn that day into a triumph instead of a tragedy.”

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. Once there, office staff 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 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.

In December 2022, 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 Britanny 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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