

1/26/2009- Honoring the NY/NJ responders of US Airways Flight 1549

Madame Speaker,

I rise today to recognize the outstanding work by rescue and non-rescue workers in the New York/New Jersey region in responding to January 15th's emergency water landing of US Airways Flight 1549. I commend them for their amazing efforts to safely rescue the flight's 155 passengers.

I would like to publicly thank Captain Chelsey Sullenberger and the flight crew whose heroism and guidance helped everyone survive the water landing. Secondly, the quick reactions from New York Waterways ferry operators and the area's first responders should be recognized and commended. Their quick response allowed all passengers to exit the plane before it was fully submerged and to be quickly retrieved from the frigid waters.

New York Waterway, a ferry company based in Weehawken, New Jersey that usually shuttles commuters back and forth across the Hudson River, played a critical role in the rescue efforts. Boats were able to reach the crash site within minutes of impact, and deliver passengers safely to the shores of New York and New Jersey where they could receive medical attention if necessary. Fortunately, major injuries were few, and I am extremely thankful for the response of New Jersey hospitals — including Christ Hospital, Palisades Medical Center, Hoboken Medical Center and Jersey City Medical Center - that treated the injured and those suffering from exposure to extremely cold temperatures.

I am inspired by the heroic efforts of all involved that led to the rescue of all 155 passengers and I am impressed by the teamwork that contributed to this successful rescue mission.

I would also like to recognize the following New Jersey based organizations that came to the aid of Flight 1549.

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Weehawken and all Regional Emergency Management Services

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Office of Emergency Management of Weehawken and Hudson County

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North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue

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Police Departments of Weehawken, Union City, Guttenburg, West New York, Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and NJ Transit

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Hudson County Sheriff's Department

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Weehawken Parks and Recreation and Senior Center Staff

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Arthur's Landing Restaurant of Weehawken

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Sheraton Hotel Weehawken

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Modell's Sporting Goods Store of West New York

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Office of the Mayor Weehawken and Union City