



MOMENTS OF TRUTH

*“Hard times don't create heroes.
It is during the hard times when the
'hero' within us is revealed.”*

Bob Riley



Hero of the Hudson: Pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 saved every passenger with miracle landing

By: Alison Gendar , Larry Mcshane, Geoff Gillette (The Daily News)
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To friends and family, he's just "Sully." To the rest of the world, Chesley Sullenberger is now a miracle worker with a pilot's license. The former Air Force fighter pilot remained cool, calm and collected both before and after successfully ditching his US Airways flight into the Hudson River.

"That pilot is a stud," said one police source. "After the crash, he was sitting there in the ferry terminal, wearing his hat, sipping his coffee and acting like nothing happened." Sullenberger, 57, looks more like Clark Kent than Superman: He's balding, slightly built, with a thin mustache. But he emerged from the slowly sinking fuselage of Flight 1549 as one of Gotham's brightest heroes, able to land engineless airplanes in a single try.

"Brace for impact," he warned the passengers before ditching the plane, a voice of lone calm in the seconds before they crashed.

Sullenberger wasn't done once his plane was down. He undid his safety belt and walked the length of the plane to make sure all the passengers were safely outside, Mayor Bloomberg said. Once finished, Sullenberger turned around and made a second pass as the plane steadily took on water - and only then did he finally exit.

"He did a masterful job of landing the plane in the river and then making sure everybody got out," said an admiring Bloomberg, who is a licensed pilot.

John and Jane Garcia, neighbors of Sullenberger in Danville, Calif., weren't at all taken aback by the pilot's utter nonchalance. "If you met Sully, you'd understand," said John. "You'd say, 'Yep, that's Sully.'" "It's not surprising," agreed Jane. "He's a great guy."

However, family friend Jim Walberg said being called a hero isn't likely to please Sullenberger. "Sure, he's a hero, but he's also a humble man," said Walberg. "'Hero' isn't a name he'll take to very easily."



One of the first rescuers on the scene said Sullenberger seemed impervious to the chaos around him. "He looked

absolutely immaculate," the rescuer said. "He looked like David Niven in an airplane uniform. He looked unruffled. His uniform was sharp. You could see him walking down the aisles making sure everybody got out."

Sullenberger maintained his calm facade in a phone call to his wife, fitness expert Lorrie Sullenberger, after his death-defying heroics. "When he called me, he said, 'There's been an accident,'" she told CNN. "At first I thought it was something minor. But then he told me the circumstances, and my body started shaking and I rushed to get our daughters out of school." A still-rattled Lorrie Sullenberger said she heard about the crash on television at their East Bay area home but never made the connection that her husband was flying the plane.

"We're really proud of him," daughter Kate told the Daily News. Sullenberger joined US Airways 29 years ago and became a well-known figure within the industry.

He's a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and earned master's degrees at both Purdue University and the University of Northern Colorado. Sullenberger is also a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley. He's participated in several National Transportation Safety Board investigations - and will sit down with NTSB investigators to offer details of Thursday's crash. He has served as safety chairman for the Air Line Pilots Association, and worked with hundreds of colleagues on safety issues. Sullenberger founded his own company, Safety Reliability Methods, Inc., to pass on his expertise to other businesses. The veteran pilot also can boast a bit. On his résumé, Sullenberger notes that he is "respected for wide range of industry knowledge, solid sense of integrity and demonstrated passion for industry as a whole as evidenced by lifelong career of flying."

His wife recalls Sullenberger saying that it's rare for a pilot to have an incident in their career. But when he finally did, the old fighter pilot proved more than equal to the task. Although flanked by worshiping cops, firefighters and city officials after the crash, Sullenberger remained detached and low-key. "That guy is one cool customer," said a police source. "He was a rock star. He had saved everybody and was behaving like it was just another day at the office."



Source:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/hero-hudson-pilot-airways-flight-1549-saved-passenger-miracle-landing-article-1.390785>



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The complete transcript between Capt. Francesco Schettino and Italian Coast Guard port official Gregorio De Falco, according to the Italian daily La Repubblica.

Schettino: It's Capt. Schettino.

De Falco: Schettino, listen to me. There are people trapped aboard, now you go back, you will go with your rescue boat under the stern of the ship, there are some steps, you climb those steps and you get onboard and you get back to me letting me know how many people are on board. Is that clear to you? I am actually recording this conversation captain.

De Falco: Speak in a louder voice.

Schettino: So, the ship right now [inaudible]

De Falco: Speak in a loud voice! Put your hand by the microphone to cover it and speak up! Is that clear?

Schettino: So, right now the ship is tilted...

De Falco: I understand that. Listen to me, there are people that are getting off using the rope ladder on the stern side, you go back there and you go up that ladder the opposite way, you go onboard the ship and you tell me how many people [are there] And what they need. You tell me if there are children, women or people that need assistance and you give me a number for each one of these categories is that clear? Look Schettino, you may have saved yourself from the sea but we'll put you through a lot of trouble it will be very bad for you! Get back on board for [expletive]'s sake!!!

Schettino: Officer, please.

De Falco: There are no "pleases"! Get back on board! Please assure me that you are going back on board.

Schettino: I am here on the rescue boat. I'm right here, I didn't go anywhere else, I'm here.

De Falco: What are you doing captain?

Schettino: I'm here to coordinate rescue operations.

De Falco: What are you coordinating? Get back on board and coordinate rescue operations from onboard the ship.

Schettino: [inaudible]

De Falco: Do you refuse to do that?

Schettino: No, I'm not refusing to do that.

De Falco: What? Are you refusing to back on board?

Schettino: No, I am not refusing to go back. I am not going because the other rescue boat stopped.

De Falco: Get back on board! This is an order! You don't need to make any other assessment. You have declared that you have abandoned ship, therefore I'm in command. Get back on board right now is that clear?

Schettino: Officer...

De Falco: Can you hear me?

Schettino: Yes, I am getting back on board.

De Falco: Then go! And call me right away when you are on board. There's my rescuer there.

Schettino: Where is your rescuer?

De Falco: My rescuer is on the stern side, go! There are already bodies, Schettino! Go!

Schettino: Officer how many bodies are there?

De Falco: I don't know. I know about one. I have heard about one, but you must tell me [expletive]!

Schettino: Do you realize it's dark out here and we can't see anything?

De Falco: What do you want to do? Do you want to go home? It's dark so you want to go home? Get on the stern of that ship climb the ladder and tell me what can be done, how many people are there and what they need. Right now!

Schettino: I'm here with my second officer.

De Falco: You and your second officer must get back on board right now is that clear?



Schettino: I just wanted to tell you that the other rescue boat here with other rescuers stopped. It's just stopped. Now I've called the other rescuers.

De Falco: You've been telling me the same thing for an hour, now get back on board! On board! And you get back to me right away telling me how many people are there.

Schettino: It's fine officer, I'm going.

De Falco: Then go. Right now!

Schettino: I have spoken to the company and there seem to be some people still onboard, possibly about one hundred.

De Falco: And you can't even give me a precise number? You say, "There seem to be?"

Schettino: Well, we were carrying out evacuation procedures, but now all the officers have gathered on the rescue boat with me."

De Falco: Where are you guys? All on the rescue boat? Excuse me, earlier you told me you were with one colleague only — now all the officers are there?

Schettino: Yes, there's me, my second officer, and...

De Falco: If the officers were able to get down there, it means they were still able to move...

Schettino: Indeed, now.

De Falco: Then why are they not going back on board to see what the situation is like and then tell us about it, thank you? Send them on board! Send someone on board to coordinate!

Schettino: Now it's not...

De Falco: Send someone back on board!

Schettino: I am try to coordinate that.

De Falco: I am giving you an order. You must send someone onboard now!

Schettino: We are going on board to coordinate ourselves...

De Falco: Exactly! You must go onboard to coordinate the disembarking! Is that clear?

Schettino: We can no longer get on board now, the ship has sunk completely.



De Falco: Why did you allow them to get off, captain?

Schettino: I didn't. We just abandoned ship.

De Falco: With 100 people still on board you abandon ship? [expletive]

Schettino: I didn't abandon any ship... because the ship turned on its side quickly and we were catapulted into the water.

De Falco: We'll clarify later what actually happened... for now tell me everything that goes on, everything! Place yourself under the ship with your rescue boat and don't leave.

Schettino: We're here. We're here.

The conversation ends.



Source:

<http://nypost.com/2012/01/17/complete-transcript-of-capt-schettino-and-italian-coast-guard-official/>

COMPARE

Captain Chesley Sullenberger



Captain Francesco Schettino

