

## 2009-J368

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring US Airways Flight 1549 Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III and his crew for their heroic actions, remaining calm under pressure, and their perseverance and dedication to the safety of all 155 passengers on board

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor US Airways Flight 1549 Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III and his crew for their heroic actions, remaining calm under pressure, and their perseverance and dedication to the safety of all 155 passengers on board; and

WHEREAS, Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, along with his crew, successfully landed the stricken jetliner in the Hudson River on Thursday, January 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, This amazing, skilled American hero, a native of Danville, California, earned a bachelor of science degree from the United States Air Force Academy, a master of science degree from Purdue University, and a master of the arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado; furthermore, Pilot Chesley Sullenberger III has been named a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III bravely served his country as a United States Air Force fighter pilot; and

WHEREAS, Just after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport, New York City, the passengers of US Airways Airbus A320, bound for Charlotte, North Carolina, all knew something was wrong due to a loud thump, followed by an eerie silence; furthermore, the flight attendants noticed the smell of burning metal; and

WHEREAS, Due to a "double bird strike," smoke was billowing from the engine mounted on the wing, which was aflame; quickly losing altitude, the pilot instructed his passengers and crew to "Brace for impact because we are going down!"; and

WHEREAS, Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III courageously, skillfully and effectively guided the plane down before it splashed into the frigid waters of the Hudson River; within minutes of crashing, captains and crew members of 14 New York Waterway ferries, arrived on the scene and rescued the cold and frightened passengers from the sinking plane; and

WHEREAS, Despite the obvious danger and risk to his personal safety, Captain Sullenberger walked the length of the plane, not once but twice, to assure that no one was left behind and everyone had gotten out; subsequently, he was the last one off; and

WHEREAS, Saving the lives of 150 passengers, three flight attendants and two pilots was the result of the collaborative efforts of Captain Sullenberger, his crew, and the captains and crew members of the New York Waterway ferries; and

WHEREAS, Turning a potential tragedy into a "Miracle on the Hudson," the Heroes include: Captain Sullenberger, 57, who has been a pilot for US Airways since 1980, and First Officer Jeff Skiles, 49, of Oregon, Wisconsin, who is a 23-year veteran of US Airways; Flight Attendants, Doreen Welsh, 58, of Ambridge, Pennsylvania, Donna Dent, 51, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Sheila Dail, 57, of Weaverville, North Carolina; Vincent Lombardi, Captain of the Thomas Jefferson, and his crew members, Hector Rabanes and Wilfredo Rivera, who were responsible for rescuing 56 people; Brittany Catanzaro, Captain of the Thomas Kean, and her crew members, Osman Berete and Cosmo Mezzina, who rescued 26 people; Vince Lucante and Michael Starr, Captains of the Yogi Berra, who rescued 24 passengers, including one infant and one child; Carl Lucas, Captain of the Athena, and his crew members, Luis Salerno and Danny Convery, who rescued 19 passengers, including the Pilot; Manny Liba, Captain of the Moira Smith, and crew members, Natale Binetti and

Gulio Farnese, who rescued 14 people; John Winiarski, Captain of the Admiral Richard Bennis, and his crew member, Frank Illuzzi, who rescued three passengers; and Mohamed Gouda, Captain of the George Washington, and his crew members, Jose Torres, Pepe Carumba and Gregorio Pages, who rescued one passenger from the plane; and

WHEREAS, The ferry crews reacted instantly to the crash, saving the passengers on board in the most successful air crash rescue in aviation history; and

WHEREAS, The members of this Legislative Body who represent all the people of the Great State of New York, would like to recognize the Captain and his crew for responding quickly, calmly, with the highest degree of professionalism and responsibility in the face of catastrophic mechanical failure and imminent tragedy; their skill and sense of duty transformed that imminent tragedy into a thankful celebration of life

for everyone aboard US Airways Flight 1549; and  
WHEREAS, If the first responders, ferry operators, and tugboat drivers of New York City hadn't responded as quickly as they did, many people would have died or suffered severe effects of hypothermia; and  
WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is grateful for the heroism, grace, calmness, determination, and dedication shown by Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, his crew, and the captains and crew members of the New York Waterway ferries; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor US Airways Flight 1549 Pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III and his crew for their heroic actions, remaining calm under pressure, and their perseverance and dedication to the safety of all 155 passengers on board; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned Heroes.