

US Airways captain the 'consummate'

Story Highlights:

Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III, 57, is former Air Force fighter pilot

Sullenberger has 40 years of flight experience

Sullenberger is frequent speaker on airline safety

NEW YORK (CNN) -- Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III was "the right guy at the right time at the surface of the Hudson River, a neighbor and friend said.

Sullenberger has a cool, calm and collected style -- honed by decades of flight experience and John Walberg told the Contra Costa Times newspaper.

All 155 passengers and crew aboard Flight 1549 survived.

The 57-year-old former Air Force fighter pilot has been flying for more than 40 years, and has b

His two-page resume is packed with achievements and highlights his broad aviation experience

The pilot speaks internationally on airline safety, and collaborates with the Center for Catastroph California-Berkeley, whose researchers look for ways to avoid air disasters.

Sullenberger was primed to help passengers aboard the Airbus A320 survive the crisis, said Ka the center.

"I can imagine him being sufficiently in charge to get those people out," she said. "He's got that [passengers call pilot a hero »](#)

Sullenberger is president and CEO of Safety Reliability Methods Inc., a company he founded. T strategies and performance monitoring to the aviation industry.

He was an instructor and Air Line Pilots Association safety chairman, accident investigator and a biography on the Web site of his company.

He participated in several U.S. Air Force and [National Transportation Safety Board](#) accident investigation papers on error and aviation, according to his resume.

He was widely praised after Thursday's forced water landing, apparently caused by a "double b

"It was an amazing piece of airmanship," said Peter Goetz, a former managing director of the N

Even New York's mayor had praise.

"It would appear that the pilot did a masterful job of landing the plane in the river and then making it afloat," Michael Bloomberg said at a news conference Thursday.

"I had a long conversation with the pilot. He walked the plane twice after everybody else was off board -- and assures us there was not."

Sullenberger's wife, Lorrie, told the New York Post on Thursday that her husband is the "consummated

"He is about performing that airplane to the exact precision to which it is made," she told the paper.

"I've said for a long time that he's a pilot's pilot. He loves the art of the airplane," she said standing in Danville, California, home on Friday. [Watch interview with pilot's wife »](#)

She said her husband, who hadn't spoken to the media as of noon Friday, was doing well.

"He's feeling better today. He's a pilot. He's very controlled, very professional," she said.

She divulged to CNN that she was stunned to hear the news from her husband after it was all over.

"I hadn't been watching the news. I've heard Sully say to people, 'It's rare for an airline pilot to have an accident.'"

"When he called me he said, 'There's been an accident.' At first I thought it was something minor, but my body started shaking and I rushed to get our daughters out of school."

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