

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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In the Matter of:ACCIDENT OF THE LADY D  
ON MARCH 6, 2004  
in Baltimore, Maryland

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Docket No. DCA 04 MM015

Wednesday,  
March 10, 2004

INTERVIEW OF:

GREG PETTIBON

PRESENT:

MORGAN J. TURRELL, NTSB  
STEVE ROGERS

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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MR. TURRELL: Good

afternoon. This is Morgan Turrell with the NTSB. We are conducting a witness interview a passenger from the Seaport Taxi accident, March 6.

Again this is Morgan Turrell with the NTSB. And to my right are investigators? Ed?

MR. NARIZZANO: Ed Narizzano, Director of Seaport Taxi.

MR. ROGERS: Steve Rogers, Marine Investigator, U.S. Coast Guard Sector, Baltimore.

MR. TURRELL: And we are interviewing, go ahead and introduce yourself and spell your name.

MR. PETTIBON: Greg Pettibon. G-R-E-G, P-E-T-T-I-B-O-N. And I was a passenger on the ferry boat taxi.

MR. TURRELL: And please acknowledge this is being recorded.

MR. PETTIBON: I acknowledge it is being recorded.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. Great.

Greg, how old are you?

MR. PETTIBON: I am 23.

MR. TURRELL: And what city and state do you

1       reside in?

2                   MR. PETTIBON: I currently live in  
3       Gaithersburg, Maryland.

4                   MR. TURRELL: Okay. And tell us a little bit  
5       about your background and education?

6                   MR. PETTIBON: My background and education, I  
7       have a Bachelor's of Business Administration with a  
8       major in Finance from Midwestern State University. And  
9       I have a Master's of Science and Applied Economics from  
10      the University of North Texas. In addition to that, in  
11      terms of education and training, I am going to include  
12      that I went through basic training for the U.S. Army at  
13      Fort Sill and I was unable to complete the Officer  
14      Candidate School. So, I had a brief National Guard  
15      experience.

16                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. And how long were in the  
17      National Guard or served?

18                  MR. PETTIBON: Just a little over a year.

19                  MR. TURRELL: And what state was that?

20                  MR. PETTIBON: That was Texas.

21                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. And do you have any  
22      boating experience or marine background of any kind?

23                  MR. PETTIBON: That would be, in terms of  
24      boating, other than a general interest in like history  
25      and interest in ships, I have been an actual boat

1       probably under 10 times, six to 10, probably. In terms  
2       of marine experience, maybe, I like to swim, growing up  
3       I always had a swimming pool. One of the aspects of  
4       moving to a more urban area for me was larger pools and  
5       I like to, I like to swim at the Gaithersburg Aquatic  
6       Center. And I do that as part of my workout.

7               MR. TURRELL: Okay. Have you ever gone scuba  
8       diving before?

9               MR. PETTIBON: No.

10              MR. TURRELL: Okay. And perhaps you could tell  
11       us why you were in Baltimore on that day, that weekend?

12              MR. PETTIBON: I was in Baltimore that day, I  
13       work very long hours during the week and every weekend  
14       I have a tendency to go out and do a lot of  
15       sightseeing. I am new to the area. And I have seen  
16       all the monuments in Washington and I wanted to see the  
17       Inner Harbor. So, I drove up early that morning,  
18       parked, got a little bit wet in an earlier storm, but I  
19       had my umbrella and I had seen the Constellation, I  
20       believe it is the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, the Paney, I  
21       had been aboard the and I had seen the lighthouse. I  
22       actually brought in a, I brought these day pass for all  
23       the -- I brought that and I just wanted the record to  
24       know that I am pulling that out and passing the  
25       relevant information, maybe.

1 MR. TURRELL: That is fine.

2 MR. PETTIBON: I ironed, so it is not too  
3 strong. But, so I had come up to see the Inner Harbor  
4 and you know, it had been a really good day, felt good.  
5 Had a nice little lunch, and then I had got and seen  
6 the sights. I was kind of, have an interest in Naval  
7 Maritime history. And I really wanted to go see Fort  
8 McHenry as well. So, you know, after, Fort McHenry  
9 was my last stop. I boarded the water taxi.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

11 MR. PETTIBON: At, the one that collects you  
12 on the starboard side of the Constellation, right, you  
13 know what I am talking about.

14 MR. TURRELL: Yes.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it --

16 MR. PETTIBON: Okay. It was, no, it was a  
17 water taxi. I got my stamp. But, it was either the  
18 one on the starboard or there is one also by the  
19 Aquarium, but I am pretty sure I got on over by the  
20 Constellation. And, again, it was my first time, I  
21 wasn't --

22 MR. TURRELL: What kind of boat was it?

23 MR. PETTIBON: It was a, it was a water taxi,  
24 the brand that I had the ticket for, the brand that I  
25 was on the boat that went down.

1                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

2                   MR. PETTIBON:    It was a much larger water  
3                   taxi, though.   It was, I don't know, just saying off  
4                   hand, I would say it was maybe three or four times  
5                   larger than the boat that I was on when, that capsized.  
6                   And it was comfortable, spacious.   This is the boat  
7                   that sent us to Fells Point, upon entrance to the boat,  
8                   it was very, I felt it was a very nice crew, it was a  
9                   woman, she was the assistant, she gave a, she gave a  
10                  little, brief safety lecture.   And other than that, you  
11                  know, just the time on the boat, it seemed like we went  
12                  to Fells Point, I gave some thought there to staying at  
13                  Fells Point, because it looked like a really neat old  
14                  neighborhood, but I decided, you know, I wanted to go  
15                  see Fort McHenry.   I had an interest in, you know,  
16                  military history and stuff, so I thought, well, I will  
17                  go there.

18                  We boarded the, I had a brief wait.   I got  
19                  off the initial water taxi, the biggest at Fells Point,  
20                  walked probably 75 meters it seemed, to another water  
21                  taxi collection, depot, maybe.   And boarded, I believe  
22                  the same to be the same taxi that tipped over, I  
23                  believe it was the same crew.   You know, at this time,  
24                  you know, when you get on a taxi, you are, you know,  
25                  you are not always paying attention to the crew, what

1       they look like, but I am, I am quite certain probably  
2       that it was the same boat, same crew.

3               MR. TURRELL: And the time?

4               MR. PETTIBON: The time, you know, I remember  
5       they said that they would be back to pick us up, I  
6       think a little before four. And that would be the last  
7       water taxi coming back from Fort McHenry.   And I  
8       wanted to say that I had more than a full hour of Fort  
9       McHenry.   So, it might have, sometime around, a little  
10      after two o'clock, maybe call it two to 2:30.

11              MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12              MR. PETTIBON: With a little variation on  
13      either side.   Like I said, I wasn't really looking at  
14      my clock, I was a tourist at the time, but I can give  
15      you that, that, those times with quite a bit of  
16      certainty.

17              I went to Fort McHenry, toured the Fort.   I,  
18      you know, about four o'clock, I started heading back.  
19      You could tell people were making their way back.   As I  
20      was waiting for the taxi, you could clearly see dark  
21      skies, from my vantage point appeared to be over the,  
22      over and beyond and I am guessing the sky, over and  
23      beyond what I think to be the central business  
24      district, is what I would call it.   I don't know what  
25      it is called in Baltimore, but the larger, the larger

1 commercial buildings and hotels.

2 MR. TURRELL: Sky lines.

3 MR. PETTIBON: Yes, dark sky lines. Slight  
4 kind of breeze, and in all honesty, it felt kind of  
5 refreshing, you know, a little bit, a cool breeze. It  
6 wasn't a dangerous wind, it seemed like, you know, the  
7 seas looked no different than seas general in my  
8 opinion, but, keep in mind I am, I am North Texas, you  
9 know don't have seas.

10 We boarded the, we were held initially before  
11 we entered over in the pier section, I believe there is  
12 a guy at the gate, that, you know, just kind of  
13 collects, you know, so nobody I guess wandered around  
14 the pier. I guess it was fire department stuff over  
15 there. You know, once the taxi came up, I hung on the  
16 phone, I had just called a friend of mine, two friends,  
17 and one back in Texas and say, hey, I have got to go.  
18 And I boarded the taxi, the water taxi. And as I, I  
19 made a sketch, I feel very, I remember sitting on the  
20 starboard side which to my knowledge the starboard is  
21 the right side of the boat as you face the front. I  
22 was sitting about midway on the starboard side, and the  
23 captain was, is on this brief sketch, was at the bough  
24 of the ship with the first mate or the assistant  
25 captain, I don't know his title.



1                   You know, I just, I just sat down, didn't  
2                   think anything of it. I was thinking at the time, you  
3                   know, what am I going to go do tonight, you know, was I  
4                   going to take it easy because I had a day of  
5                   sightseeing and stuff, or you know, I called a friend  
6                   and we might, we talked about going out in D.C. So, I  
7                   was thinking a lot about that. And, you know, then we  
8                   headed out, and in terms of how long it was after  
9                   leaving port, to when we started to experience trouble,  
10                  in terms of minutes, I want to say, but I can't say  
11                  this is with a strong degree of certainty that it was  
12                  maybe like two to six maybe, but, then again, you know,  
13                  in all honesty it might have been more. I wasn't  
14                  timing it, you know, I really, I was sightseeing so I  
15                  wasn't exactly at the time caring about, too much about  
16                  the time. But, in terms of to when we went out to when  
17                  we started experiencing trouble, like I said, two to  
18                  six minutes, probably closer to six.

19                 It seems like when we were heading out,  
20                 crossing the harbor, it seemed, I was going to point  
21                 out it seems to me that the wind direction that I could  
22                 notice and stuff, it seemed to be coming across the  
23                 port and bough of the ship, so we were hitting it kind  
24                 of at an angle and just kind of, is what it. And from  
25                 once, it seems to me like, no, it doesn't seem to me.

1     It was that once it started to get rough and we started  
2     to get jostled, I think it was maybe, from once we  
3     really started to get jostled, and it once really,  
4     really started to get rocked, it seems like we had  
5     maybe 15 seconds before we went over. And I don't know  
6     if, maybe 15 to 30 but, I felt like the reaction time  
7     for everybody was, was, was very small. And it wasn't,  
8     I didn't think I had, it wasn't something you could see  
9     coming at you.

10           And I would like to point out that on the  
11     notes that I made, from here, once things really  
12     started to get bad to once we went over, was like I  
13     said, maybe 15 or 30 seconds. And maybe my  
14     interpretation of really bad and someone else's is  
15     going to be different, no doubt, but, when I got  
16     alarmed, it was 15 to 30 seconds.

17           I would say that the winds continued to hit  
18     us on the bough and on the port side and we started to  
19     get jostled. People started getting tossed around a  
20     little bit. And I could still, like we rocked a  
21     little bit and you could, this was part of the  
22     jostling, that we rocked a couple, one to three feet  
23     left to right at first, and then it, I will say it  
24     seemed like the wind started hitting us maybe more  
25     noticeably, and this is my interpretation of it, on the

1 port side, left on the bough like we had gotten a  
2 little bit shifted to the bough and I, I, I heard a few  
3 things like I am heading for port or something, I am  
4 heading in or let the wind take us. I don't remember  
5 the exact of what was said, but it was along those  
6 lines. And, you know, I was largely concerned at this  
7 time with holding onto my seat, because, as I said, we  
8 were getting jostled. And you know, the boat, it  
9 seemed like we really started getting wind on the  
10 starboard side, and we really started jostling.

11 MR. TURRELL: Now the wind now was starboard  
12 side?

13 MR. PETTIBON: It seems like it was more like,  
14 it seemed like, you know, we either were less  
15 aerodynamic in terms of the wind hitting us bough  
16 first, or you know, like, maybe we either turned or  
17 maybe the wind could turn.

18 MR. TURRELL: But, the wind was on the  
19 starboard.

20 MR. PETTIBON: It seemed like the most of the,  
21 I am going to say most of the force is against us was  
22 on the starboard side.

23 MR. RATCHES: Probably the port side. It was  
24 on the port side.

25 MR. PETTIBON: I would say, I felt like it was

1 the left side of the boat as you face the bough.

2 MR. TURRELL: Right. So then, so the wind  
3 was on the port side, initially, when the boat started  
4 getting rocked.

5 MR. PETTIBON: Did I say that?

6 MR. TURRELL: Port side, the left side.

7 MR. PETTIBON: Because I was, yes, left was  
8 port, excuse me. The left is the port, and it seemed  
9 like the whole time the wind was hitting on the port  
10 side, the left side.

11 MR. TURRELL: Right.

12 MR. PETTIBON: The left side of the boat, and  
13 you know, as things started to get bad, it seemed like  
14 it hit us more on the left. And maybe it was, it also  
15 intensifying.

16 MR. TURRELL: The wind seemed to be, from your  
17 standpoint, moving counter clock wise.

18 MR. PETTIBON: I was sitting on the starboard  
19 side and it was on the opposite side from me, it seemed  
20 like where most of the, the force was hitting the boat.

21 MR. TURRELL: So, the wind apparently moved  
22 from the bough further --

23 MR. PETTIBON: Yeah, like it was, like I said,  
24 and I am making an illustration, this is the boat, and  
25 I am sitting here.

1 MR. TURRELL: Yes.

2 MR. PETTIBON: This is the bough, it seemed  
3 like the wind was hitting us at, you know, initially  
4 once she started to, and we started to rock.

5 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

6 MR. PETTIBON: Okay. And then it seemed like  
7 once we got that, it started hitting us more like this.

8 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. PETTIBON: Okay. And it seemed, you know,  
10 like we really, we were getting jostled, and I will  
11 revisit this comment about, a thought about the woman  
12 who is missing in a little bit, where they might be  
13 sitting or seated. It seemed to me like we went hard  
14 to port. And we were jostled, but, it seems like we  
15 went hard over to the port side and again this is the  
16 front of the ship, we went hard like that, and a lot of  
17 people and this is kind of loosely recorded in the  
18 notes, a lot of people went over hard and I mean,  
19 people were getting thrown a little hard. And I, you  
20 know, I think I was able to not to go anywhere really.  
21 I was trying to, you know, brace myself and it was  
22 very sudden when things really started to get bad and  
23 get jostled. But, I don't remember getting thrown  
24 hard. I mean, I remember when we had flipped, it was  
25 like we had went like this. And again, the front of

1 the ship, the bough, like we went hard, a lot of people  
2 went this way to the starboard side and I saw people go  
3 across. That is when I realized it was kind like, oh,  
4 God, you know, this is, this is hard core serious when  
5 I saw people kind of go across. And people, you know,  
6 people were getting jostled, but it seems like we went  
7 like that, they all went, some people hit, and then in  
8 a matter of just a few seconds, it seems like we just  
9 went completely over like that, kind of back over, I  
10 guess to the starboard side and flipped that way. And,  
11 you know, once that happened it just, it seemed like  
12 instantaneously it was full of water.

13 And it wasn't like in the movies where you,  
14 you know, it starts at your waist and raises, it was  
15 just like whoosh, you might as well have been at the  
16 bottom of the sea, it seemed like. And initially I  
17 thought that we might have rolled and then top, but,  
18 you know, I think now that upside and again, you know,  
19 this is the bough of the ship seemed like maybe, like  
20 we bogged, like we were upside down, we were totally  
21 submerged like we were bobbing. It was very  
22 disorienting. You know, the whole thing was quite  
23 obviously disorienting. And it seems like, it didn't  
24 seem like it, I know, I was able, at two times to get  
25 air off the top and just, just a little brief spot of

1       air. And I was very, very, I am looking for the right  
2       word, desperate.

3               The feeling of drowning, the things, you  
4       know, hitting you, and the people and this is a side  
5       note, a personal reflection of what it felt like to me,  
6       was I may never been mauled by a bear, but, I can only  
7       imagine how that would just be helpless getting thrown  
8       and torn and, you know. It felt like that, but at the  
9       same time I remember when we were gassed, CX gas at  
10      basic training, it was like an instant suffocation.  
11      And it felt like instant pressure, you know, very  
12      desperate it seemed like to me, initially, like on the  
13      gassing. It felt like a combination of getting gassed  
14      and getting just horribly manhandled. You know, so it  
15      is just a odd metaphor analogy, but it felt like  
16      getting gassed and mauled by a bear at the same time.  
17      To me, it was, it just seemed like it took me forever  
18      to get to where I felt like I could control my  
19      movements under the water. And, you know, I could  
20      really feel that, you know, I am dying. You know, it  
21      was, everything was just, it seemed like moving a  
22      little bit was a struggle. It felt like, you remember  
23      and I am making a reference, when you are a kid and you  
24      go to McDonald's and they have the little play room  
25      with the balls in, and if you know, when I as a little

1 kid, you get in the ball bin, and you know you, you  
2 don't have much movement, if you go in the balls it is  
3 like everything is, you know, your movement is  
4 extremely restricted.

5 And, you know, you couldn't see much, you  
6 know, I would say at most you could see bright objects  
7 maybe eight inches maybe in front of you. And the  
8 things that I remember seeing, I want to describe it  
9 like some type of maybe, you see some psychedelic movie  
10 where things pop and it was stuff like, you know,  
11 maybe, maybe like people, maybe seat cushions, maybe,  
12 just things, really getting, objects inside the cab.  
13 And then, you know, you saw the greenish black water.  
14 And, you know, just a terrible, like I said, you know,  
15 that this, the feeling like you are suffocating and  
16 getting manhandled at the same time. And I really felt  
17 like I was down a long, long time, and you know, I  
18 could feel myself just like, like a voice just like, it  
19 just so hard, you know, it is just so hard, you know,  
20 just relax, Greg, it really, the is the only I can  
21 qualify it or compare it to. And then it is like, I  
22 just kind, in my mind said, screw it, do whatever you  
23 can, get, just go. And I just kept going and grabbing  
24 and you know, on my hands, I just got a few cuts and  
25 scraps, but, I remember Sunday they really hurt like,



1     you know, something had smashed them and mashed them.  
2     But, you know, I think it was just like it was grabbing  
3     and, and trying to find a way out. And it just seems  
4     like it took a long time and I eventually found an edge  
5     and I could feel an edge and I can grab it. I think  
6     that was a window and it would have been on the  
7     starboard of the boat, however, the boat had flipped  
8     over. So, I am saying it was on the starboard side of  
9     the right side righted boat. Okay.

10           MR. TURRELL: For the boat.

11           MR. PETTIBON: Yes. And it seems like I got  
12     up that way. And, you know, when I got up, you know,  
13     it was just so, you know, I didn't see any, it was  
14     still kind of like, oh, my, the breath of fresh air is  
15     like horribly fatigued. And the first thing I did was  
16     climb up and I don't know if somebody grabbed me, but I  
17     know I was up. It seems like maybe one or two people  
18     or maybe more were already on the boat. And I got up  
19     and got a little bit of my bearings, and, you know, I  
20     want to say I helped get one person out of the water,  
21     maybe two. And then I saw a guy, I saw a woman crying  
22     of her kids. And I saw, I would describe as one of the  
23     older Puerto Ricans, International Guardman, I believe  
24     he got back in the water and I kind of realized that, I  
25     really, I could see now I could do something. And I

1 got back in --

2 MR. TURRELL: Let's stop just for a moment.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay. You saw an older Puerto  
5 Rican gentleman.

6 MR. PETTIBON: Yes. I talked with him  
7 afterwards and we actually hugged each other once we  
8 were headed back into port. But, I got back in, and  
9 you know, I tried to go down and but, it was like you  
10 could, you know, I, I, I want to say I went down and on  
11 the side I got out of, the starboard of the boat that  
12 had been over flipped, I remember I was able to get  
13 inside, I did not go inside, you know, I think having  
14 just coming out, there was no way I would have  
15 completely gone inside. The difference between coming  
16 up on the scene, if I had just seen it, I would have  
17 gone in, I think, but, you know, I went in and I just  
18 put my arm, an arm in there at a time, and it just  
19 seemed like, I want to say I grabbed two things I felt  
20 and I think one was maybe a life vest and one might,  
21 maybe a cushion or a pillow, you know, something, you  
22 know, like along those lines, you know, it just, it  
23 just seemed like, you know, it wasn't like you could,  
24 and I seen one of the other guys that went down, or, I  
25 think, a dad might have gone down, but, I don't know if

1       they, what they did in terms of going in, but all I did  
2       was stick my arms in.

3               MR. TURRELL: Okay.

4               MR. PETTIBON: And I did this on the left  
5       side, and I just, I found nothing, I saw nothing. It  
6       was hard, it was cold, and I climbed back out and I  
7       remember at some point, I took off, I had a shirt on, a  
8       blue collared shirt and I had a green sweater over it  
9       and I took off the green sweater and I threw it down  
10      somewhere. And anyway, you know, I didn't, I went back  
11      down again on the overturned -- It was the overturned  
12      starboard side and in the one of the pictures that they  
13      showed me, and it is, I just tried to get, find  
14      something there, but it is like I couldn't find, it  
15      seemed like I couldn't find an open window. And it  
16      seemed like I couldn't even make connection with a  
17      window, you know, I don't know, I wasn't going down  
18      deep enough, but it just seemed like it was a just a  
19      panel. And I might as well been sitting on a wall.  
20      And I mean, before I went down, before I went down on  
21      the left side, the star, port side, before I went down  
22      there, once I got up initially after I came back out  
23      the water, climbed back in the boat the second time, I  
24      had a pocket knife, and I cut loose, you see in the  
25      picture I am, in the actual people that I have seen the

1 most of, I am at the aft of the boat and I got the  
2 life, the donut, the life saver donut, like in my hand  
3 or next to me and when I had gone down, I had hang onto  
4 that and that kind of with me. And but, I cut that off  
5 with my knife. I had brought the knife with me, I  
6 always carry a little pocket knife. I got mugged once  
7 and it maybe it kept me from getting really hurt. And  
8 so I religiously carry a pocket knife.

9 And but, it just seemed like on that side,  
10 the port side, overturned port side, that there was no  
11 windows, no way to get inside, no way to feel inside.  
12 I think inside, I don't know if I would or could have  
13 gone in like in the movies where the guy swims around.

14 But, and the thing that I think of, I did not try it  
15 and it never even occurred to me to try getting in the  
16 front door. I don't know what, I don't know, I know  
17 the, it seems like a dad, I am going to say the dad,  
18 the older guy, he went in the water and maybe the older  
19 looking Puerto Rican gentleman went in the water also.

20 I know he did. It seems like, I don't know if either  
21 of them tried the front door, but it is, now it seems  
22 to me like it was obvious, but I know I came out a  
23 window, I guess I was thinking the windows are the way.

24 And, in the picture that they show that I, I don't  
25 know, you know, I seen on the news, not the news, but

1 newspapers and people keep saying, yeah, I am -- I am  
2 at the back of the boat, and I am on the, at on the aft  
3 of the boat on the overturned port side and I got the D  
4 in my hands and I know that,

5 I heard somebody mention that a boat, over in  
6 the boat, I was climbing back in and I guess the Navy  
7 took the picture, because of the screen is, or the  
8 bottom of the picture is the ramp of the L Cat. And  
9 but, I mean, I want to say that on both sides, when I  
10 actually like to try to bog down and feel, I mean, it  
11 couldn't have been more than maybe I went down like  
12 six, seven times. And it was, it just felt like, so  
13 fatiguing to try that. And it just felt hard. I mean,  
14 I, but, I mean, I did try to feel, you know, for  
15 something, and it just seemed like on the one side, I  
16 mentioned, that you couldn't find anything open. So, I  
17 guess, I don't know what most people say we got out on,  
18 but, you know, I guess I got out on the overturned port  
19 side.

20 So, and then, you know, we got on, the Navy  
21 pulled up, and I have got to say that very, very great  
22 thing to see that the Navy pull up, lowered the, the  
23 ramp lowered and I don't know, I mean guys were there,  
24 but, to see people start jump in the water. And I saw  
25 one gentleman, a very lean, muscular guy, not African

1 American, but, dark skinned, a young seaman, he jumped  
2 in the water and he initially tried to go down. And I  
3 don't know if, I tried to say that you can't get down  
4 on this side, I think I tried to tell him, he had a  
5 real close haircut, maybe shaved and you can't get down  
6 on this side. You know, I don't know if he heard, I  
7 don't, if, you know, if it was audible as I would have  
8 liked it to have been, but, I know at that point, the L  
9 Cat had kind of up. And I want to say it looked to me  
10 like the two boats either nearly hit or hit, but, he, I  
11 mean, he had to go down to avoid getting hit by the  
12 lowered ramp.

13 And we got onboard the L Cat and I was  
14 calling it an L Cat, that it is what I was typically  
15 known, some acronym, but, for landing craft, but, we  
16 got onboard, and, you know, I was just, at first I  
17 thought my role is over, you know, I mean, you know, I  
18 just felt so good to be standing up and, you know, and  
19 everybody was kind still panicking and, you know, at  
20 first, I thought, well, the Navy is here, the rescue is  
21 here. And I just thought, you know, I can't really  
22 comment on too much then, but until I saw that the, I  
23 guess one of the Navy guys, I took him to be, I don't  
24 know Naval rank very well, but, if I was to say Army  
25 rank, gold leaf clovers, not clovers, or clusters, I

1       guess that was the lieutenant commander, or I was --  
2       But, I thought he went down and I don't know if he got  
3       inside or what had happened, but, he was, he was on the  
4       deck of the L Cat and somebody was saying, sir, sir,  
5       stay down, sir, sir, relax. And I went over to see,  
6       you know, there was anything I could do and he was very  
7       disoriented, you know. He was very woozy. And I  
8       thought, you know, there is still something I could do.  
9       And, you know, I went over and, you know, at some  
10      point, until the people started coming up, we saw the  
11      bodies on the starboard side of the L Cat, that is  
12      where I saw them. I have illustrations of that and  
13      positions. Until I started seeing that, I don't know  
14      how long, much time passed, but I remember, you know,  
15      looking over and seeing, you know, the people floating  
16      and they looked all faced down. And I don't know, I  
17      know they tried to right the boat maybe, and I don't  
18      know if they came up then, but, you know, at this point  
19      I saw, the main thing I saw was, it looked like a, I am  
20      just going to call it a mystery woman, because to me,  
21      there are some initial confusion as to who she might be  
22      in terms of trying to relay that to the authorities.  
23      And she was at the back portion of the L Cat, that  
24      would be her.

25                   On the starboard side by the aft,

1     aft/starboard side, and I saw her kind of drift by face  
2     down and I want to say she had dark clothes on and I  
3     want to say maybe, maybe a darkish blue shirt, but it  
4     seemed like she was faced down and she might have, she  
5     went to the back of the boat. And at that point I  
6     know, I think somebody had gotten the little girl over  
7     towards the, what I think to be the back of the boat.  
8     It was the, it was the starboard side towards the aft  
9     and I want to say we were on the upper deck and there  
10    were like maybe two or three of use there and we all  
11    pulled her out. And you know, once we pulled her up,  
12    I, I thought she was, I didn't think a chance and I  
13    guess she is the one that is still alive, or in  
14    critical shape. But, man, I just thought, I mean, I  
15    just thought to say an old expression, deader than  
16    stove wood, you know. It just, you know, total, she  
17    had, what I could see, I don't know what it was, coming  
18    out of mouth. I am sure some form of vomit. Real  
19    cold. And I just kind of, again, I was thinking, okay,  
20    well, someone else, they will take her. And she is  
21    dead, is what I thought. And after that I walked off.  
22    I never saw or heard anything about her until, my  
23    parents actually said that a little girl was alive and  
24    I thought that, there is no way she is alive, with  
25    such, there was so much misinformation, I thought when



1       they said she was alive.       I mean, I would have bet a  
2       hundred dollar bill she was dead.

3               But, I went down after we pulled her up, I  
4       walked down the stairs and went to the same side,  
5       starboard side to the raft, and some people were trying  
6       to pull the woman out, the one that we did pull out.  
7       And we pulled her up, and it was, you know, it was, you  
8       know, it was, I like to think I am strong guy and lifts  
9       weights, but it felt like pulling a boulder. Just the  
10      dead weight out of the water. And we pulled her up and  
11      a Naval, I don't know if he was an NCO or an officer,  
12      and I mean, the guy, it was such a commendable effort,  
13      I mean, he did the, initially he did the, I think until  
14      the EMTs crossed over, he did the, the breathing  
15      portion of the CPR. And he had, I believe he had his  
16      finger down her mouth, and I think he was, I don't know  
17      if he was alternating between breathing through her  
18      nose or in her mouth. And I am CPR certified with my  
19      National Guard unit, and in like November of 2002,  
20      yeah, November of 2002 and I had had a little bit of  
21      like reaction, response to a casualty in basic  
22      training. And I tried to, when he did the breathing  
23      portions, I did the chest compressions and he kept  
24      saying make sure you have got one of her celiplexius.  
25      And, you know, I just kept, you know, trying to do the

1 best job, I kept pushing and I kept pushing hard. I  
2 remember thinking, that I hope I am not, if she is  
3 still alive, I was pushing hard and I hope I am not,  
4 you know, I know that the instruction we had from the  
5 CPR, from my National Guard unit, was an EMT in his  
6 civilian job, and I remember him talking about how  
7 messy it really is. And you, there is a very good  
8 chance you actually break their stern and the ribs, but  
9 you have got to do that. And I don't think I pushed  
10 that, you know, but I just, that was running through my  
11 mind as I am doing this, all I was doing was the  
12 pushing. I tried to do like five, or five pushes,  
13 break.

14 And a side note on what I felt at this time  
15 was I noted in my mind that she didn't have her shirt  
16 on, and I personally kind of thought about how, just  
17 indignity, I guess is the word, for this lady dying  
18 with her shirt off, vomit on her mouth and it is what I  
19 took to be -- in her hair. And the whole time I was  
20 doing the pushing, I just felt like I wanted to say,  
21 man, you are wasting your time, you know, I mean, I was  
22 going to keep doing it and I had to get, I just  
23 couldn't do any more. I mean, my arms, I mean, and a  
24 Navy guy, spotted me, and not spotted me as he saw me,  
25 but, took it over.

1                   And it seemed like shortly after that, a  
2   Navy, not a Navy, a fire department or an emergency  
3   rescue boat pulled along side of us on the starboard  
4   side, by the ramp, up at the front of the boat and the  
5   EMT or medical rescue guy, it was an older guy, and I  
6   actually went to the hospital with him as a passenger  
7   in his ambulance. And anyway, he jumped over and he  
8   evaluated her and I think he did a little bit more,  
9   real, real briefly did, really did a good job on that  
10   guy's part, and everybody's part, we got her on a  
11   Gurney, and we strapped her down. When we looked at  
12   her on the Gurney, I grabbed the cuffs of her pants,  
13   and we got her up there. And then we moved her over to  
14   the, to the boat that pulled along side of us. And  
15   they took off.

16                  And I don't know when and where they got the  
17   little girl and where they did CPR on her. I did not  
18   see that or CPR or whatever they did to help her. I  
19   didn't see that. In fact, I don't know when they got  
20   her off the boat. I would like to know after this is  
21   over, but, I mean, I thought they just put her in,  
22   maybe covered her up or put her in the, what I thought  
23   would be the driver's cabin, because I mean, I am still  
24   amazed that she is, I guess the only one that is still  
25   alive of the really traumatized people.

1           But, I mean, after that, I mean, remember odd  
2 things like doing, like, you know, I could still do a  
3 little something. I remember actually trying to like  
4 move stuff off the deck. I think I picked up a couple  
5 of life vests and threw them on the side. And, but  
6 and then it just seemed like I just, we started heading  
7 in towards shore.

8           MR. TURRELL: Okay.

9           MR. PETTIBON: And some things that I would  
10 like to, I remember real quickly after we got up on the  
11 boat, this is to digress back to when we were on top of  
12 the overturned water taxi, I asked maybe the captain,  
13 an older guy, in fact it was the captain, and the first  
14 mate, I want to say I asked him how many people were  
15 onboard and he said 23. And I remember when I got on  
16 the Navy boat, I told a, again I am no good at Navy  
17 rank, but he had three chevrons, I think, and an eagle  
18 on top, I am not sure how it is and that is the  
19 recollection that he had that. He was dark hair, tall  
20 guy. I would probably be able to point him out again,  
21 I remember saying, you need to get a count, and I want  
22 to say I told somebody, some Naval personnel, there  
23 were 23 people. And then I asked somebody, somehow I  
24 found out that there were 23 people without the crew.  
25 I think I tried to tell somebody that. In fact, I

1     tried to tell somebody, you know, we had 23, I said 23,  
2     but there was 25. And I remember at some point, I  
3     remember saying again to this Navy guy. He might have  
4     been different, but I remember saying to him, you know,  
5     you really have got to get a count. And --

6             MR. TURRELL: Let's just stop for a moment.

7             (Off the record.)

8             MR. TURRELL: Okay. Continue.

9             MR. PETTIBON: So, I mean, I just, I just  
10     mention that, you know, I tried to get a count and that  
11     stuff that was doing, because I remember it just felt  
12     to me like, you know, when I heard there were 25 people  
13     that, you know, it seemed like, man, it couldn't have  
14     been more 15, 15 people come up, if that. It didn't  
15     seem like there were that many people that came out.  
16     And, you know, in going back to when we initially got  
17     out of the boat, and right now I am just kind of  
18     recalling details after I told the bulk of it. But, it  
19     seemed like when I came out of the water from the boat,  
20     I mean, I think it could see people up on the boat  
21     already, and but, I think I might have been one of the  
22     last people to come up, but I was one of the, one of  
23     the first five, six, that were on the boat. You know,  
24     I know I pulled, maybe helped to get one guy up, helped  
25     some other people, because I remember like grabbing, I

1     want to say I felt weird grabbing people's belt  
2     buckles, like, you know, decency issue, you know, you  
3     are touching their, even at this point, it seemed kind  
4     of weird to reach down and grab somebody by their belt.

5             But, you know, just, just through remembered  
6     details, I remember asking once I got up, and I don't  
7     know if this before I went back in the water, I  
8     remember saying, you know, asking, you know, anyone got  
9     a cell phone. I tried my cell phone. It was water  
10    logged. And I remember like trying to do this, maybe,  
11    or do we have a signal or, you know, I don't, you know  
12    what I mean? And you know, everybody was in, in their  
13    own, you know, survival mode. And I don't know how  
14    much, you know, if people noted and how much people,  
15    you know, some people you could tell were just  
16    absolutely in their own universe of crying and stuff  
17    like that, but, you know, so, some people, there are  
18    some people that were trying to do some stuff. And I  
19    guess at some point, I found out once we were up, I  
20    think back on the Navy boat, that I guess an older  
21    woman, I guess it was her shoulder broken, maybe a  
22    collar bone. I want to say there were some people  
23    with her, helping her. I want to say that there were  
24    maybe two couples. I just know that one, one of the  
25    guys in the couple, I want to say he had a collared

1       sweatshirt on and he had a beard, and he was with his  
2       girlfriend. And they were up there together, and the  
3       other couples were kind of, had gotten together, you  
4       know. And the, I know that, I want to say it is the  
5       guy that, in the picture, in the foreground of the  
6       picture that was taken from the Naval boat. I  
7       mentioned earlier, I am getting out and I got this  
8       donut, the life saver donut. You can barely make out  
9       the guy's face, but he was a younger guy, mid or late  
10      20s, maybe, early 30s, he was one of the guys from the  
11      Puerto Rican International Guard, you know, nice, sharp  
12      looking guy, you know, he was, you know, trying to help  
13      me, the times that I tried to go down and but, you  
14      know, I say go down, but you know, I am just, I mean,  
15      you couldn't go down, I mean, I couldn't, you know, I  
16      and I don't know if I found a way inside, if I would  
17      have been able to, you know. But, you know, try to get  
18      your arm in there and feel.

19               MR. TURRELL: Right.

20               MR. PETTIBON: And but he kind of was walking  
21      along side and you know, ready to help, you know. And  
22      I remember an older guy, I want to say stayed in the  
23      water, maybe it was the dad, maybe. But, I don't know,  
24      it is like, from the time we capsized and came up to  
25      the time that the Navy guys pulled up, you know, it

1       just felt like an eternity, you know, obviously. But,  
2       in realistic terms, I don't know how long it would take  
3       them to coordinate and get everyone on a boat and rush  
4       out there, which they did. They did a tremendous job.

5       I don't know, how they could have done it under 10  
6       minutes, maybe.

7               MR. TURRELL: Okay. How long were you in the  
8       water for? How long were you, how long before you got  
9       from the capsized boat to the boat?

10              MR. PETTIBON: Oh, man --

11              MR. TURRELL: Just a rough estimate.

12              MR. PETTIBON: Ten to 15 minutes is what it  
13       felt like.

14              MR. TURRELL: Okay.

15              MR. PETTIBON: You know.

16              MR. TURRELL: And how did --

17              MR. PETTIBON: It could have been a few  
18       minutes either side of that, that stand.

19              MR. TURRELL: Okay. How long do you think you  
20       were on the Navy boat before you came ashore?

21              MR. PETTIBON: You know, it is, it seemed like  
22       maybe 20 minutes, maybe more. Maybe a lot more.

23              MR. TURRELL: And when you got ashore, how  
24       long were you ashore before you were --

25              MR. PETTIBON: Once, once we were ashore, I



1 remember, you know, and one thing, I digress, and don't  
2 let me forget where I digressed from, one thing I  
3 remember, you know, once, it seemed like some wreckage  
4 should come up on the front of the boat and we tried to  
5 rope off maybe the, and I don't, you know, I was going  
6 fast, and this one of the times that I was really going  
7 fast, like, you know, because the rest of the time I  
8 want to say, with the exception of getting out of the  
9 cabin of the boat, I want to say the rest of the time I  
10 was kind of focused, and I can, you know, recall times  
11 and events, but, I think when the Navy tried to, maybe  
12 latch on and maybe even right, I don't know what they  
13 were doing, the boat, it seemed like that was the time  
14 that I wasn't paying attention to what they were doing.

15 And I was just on the boat and in my mind, in my mind  
16 I was thinking, well, hey, God, I made it. I wasn't  
17 thinking about, you know, can I do anything, you know,  
18 and should I do anything.

19 But, I remember there was wreckage a little  
20 bit, at the front of the boat, kind of on the raft, I  
21 think. I remember, I want to say I picked down and  
22 knocked a piece of metal off, like a, maybe a piece of,  
23 like steel, kind of bent. I remember doing it and I  
24 remember thinking this is going to hurt somebody. And  
25 it seemed like it was, and, you know, you don't, people

1       were running around and stuff. But, I just remembered  
2       doing that, just kind of getting it out of the way.

3               MR. TURRELL: Was that in the water?

4               MR. PETTIBON: No, that was on the ramp.

5               MR. TURRELL: On the ramp, okay. Wreckage from  
6       the taxi boat?

7               MR. PETTIBON: I think so probably.

8               I remember a few other things, just like  
9       points that could, you know, I will say and you guys  
10      sort through. I remember the, the Navy guys initially,  
11      you know, a couple of them jumped in the water once  
12      they pulled up, and they also threw over a rope. And I  
13      remember, you know, at first we start trying to pull,  
14      you know, like pull the boats together and then we just  
15      tied it around the engine. And some other guys did  
16      that.

17              And just a few points, I remember we helped  
18      pull the other boat, the boat that took the woman off  
19      and put her the Gurney, we tried to pull that to the  
20      side. But, in terms of what was done with the boat,  
21      like once they tried to, maybe latch a few boats  
22      together, or whatever they were trying to do, I really  
23      can't say. Because, you know, I don't know for certain  
24      as to what, what happened. But, I know that they did  
25      something and I just remember, after, immediately after

1     you saw the bodies on the, on the starboard side, once  
2     I walked over there. And that is going back to the  
3     story about, but, I mean, that is kind of it.

4             I remember, once we got on shore, a lot of  
5     people were, were, you know, the Navy Reservists were,  
6     you know, rushing out and the fire department, I guess  
7     they were there, and the police, and you know, the Navy  
8     Reservists were giving out, you know, clothes and stuff  
9     like that. And I just remember, you know, all I did  
10    was take off my shoes and they offered me like, I want  
11    to say a fireman's overalls, and I didn't think I  
12    needed it, once I got in, I just took my shoes off, my  
13    socks, put on a Navy reserve shirt that I have still,  
14    if anybody needs that for anything. I know they told  
15    me, I would like to keep it as a souvenir of sorts,  
16    but, I know that they were very helpful in trying to  
17    give the people stuff. One of my initial concerns was  
18    that I had lost a pair glasses, and my glasses. And I  
19    had been wearing them, and you know, without them, you  
20    know, I can squint and see fairly well, but, my, my  
21    good visibility is without my glasses is probably  
22    comfortable 20 feet, I mean, beyond that it starts  
23    to blur out. But, I mean, it is, I couldn't read this  
24    over there at the TV, I mean, you know, it is, I  
25    actually get by without them in a pinch.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

2 MR. PETTIBON: But, I did lose them and I told  
3 some people that. Especially once we got back. Once  
4 we got up on the boat at some point, I said that to  
5 somebody, I lost my glasses, you know, I can't, I can't  
6 see what is going on like, you know, somebody sent a  
7 signal, I mentioned signal on a boat. And I just, I  
8 wouldn't have been able to see the boat really, that  
9 they were coming to help us until maybe they were 100  
10 yards away, which for me was great, but somebody yelled  
11 here is a boat, I climbed up, and then all of a sudden,  
12 the Navy guys showed up and it was like, one of the  
13 greatest thing you could think of. So, seeing those  
14 guys, and just knowing that, because I thought it was  
15 over, but --

16 MR. TURRELL: So, roughly how long do you  
17 think you were on shore before you, did you go to the  
18 hospital?

19 MR. PETTIBON: Yes, I went to the hospital.

20 MR. TURRELL: How long were you there on shore  
21 before going to the hospital?

22 MR. PETTIBON: You know, it just, an hour.

23 MR. TURRELL: And which hospital did you go  
24 to?

25 MR. PETTIBON: I went to Mercy Hospital.

1                   MR. TURRELL: And you were treated for?

2                   MR. PETTIBON: I was treated, I had, actually  
3                   oddly enough, fairly systematical wounds to my hands.

4                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

5                   MR. PETTIBON: I have and this wasn't  
6                   something I even noticed, I woke up sore Sunday, but,  
7                   Saturday other than like my hands being cut, and a  
8                   little shaky from the chill, and you know, a knot on my  
9                   head, you know, you know, I was really go, go, go, you  
10                  know, I remember Sunday or Saturday night, you know, I  
11                  was shaky and cold and stuff, but not hypothermic. I  
12                  went to Mercy Hospital in the ambulance that took over,  
13                  remember I mentioned that the EMT guy who came onboard,  
14                  he stayed onboard after they put the girl, excuse me,  
15                  the woman on the Gurney and took her to the, I guess  
16                  took her into shore to the hospital, the woman that I  
17                  guess just recently died. But, he stayed onboard, and  
18                  I don't know if he went off and checked the little  
19                  girl. I don't know anything about the little girl  
20                  other than, you know, I grabbed her legs and we pulled  
21                  her up. I remember thinking, oh, God, she is dead as a  
22                  brick, you know. But, I went to the ambulance, I went  
23                  to the hospital, Mercy Hospital sitting in the back of  
24                  the ambulance with this EMT guy. And at the same time,  
25                  somebody, I think an EMT guy had let me use his cell

1       phone, and I was calling a friend of mine to pick me up  
2       after the hospital releases me.

3               Once, you know --

4               MR. TURRELL: No, go ahead.

5               MR. PETTIBON: Went to the hospital, you know,  
6       they, I got some blankets. They had me lay down, a  
7       doctor came in, I spoke with him. You know, I told  
8       him, you know, that I got, I certainly had gotten  
9       banged up and bruised up, you know. But, you know, in  
10      terms of mass major physical trauma, I didn't seem to  
11      have much other than, you know, like getting out of  
12      there, like I said, I already described how desperate  
13      that was and that was pretty, pretty, savagely  
14      desperate as I can think of. But, in terms of just  
15      physical trauma, like I didn't have any gashing wounds,  
16      or broken bones and stuff. I was a little cold and,  
17      you know, unless I get a little head cold now, maybe  
18      because of it, but, you know, I went in, the doctor  
19      took my temperature. He, he did my blood pressure. Not  
20      the doctor, but the nurse.

21              MR. TURRELL: Okay.

22              MR. PETTIBON: They had to check my breathing,  
23      kind of just looked me over a little bit.

24              MR. TURRELL: Hold on, I put change the tape  
25      anyway.

1 (Off the record.)

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Please continue, you had a  
3 doctor check you out.

4 MR. PETTIBON: They checked me out. You  
5 know, oddly enough and I know that they were, might  
6 have been getting ready for major people to come in,  
7 but they didn't actually dress, you know, scraps, you  
8 know, my small pinkie fingers have some, some pretty  
9 good size cuts on them, more like a scrap cut than like  
10 a knife cut. But, and that was, I don't know if that  
11 was just trying to get out or if that was from the  
12 bottom of the boat was kind of rusted up barnacle on  
13 the bottom, the bottom of the pontoon portion. I am  
14 not sure where I got those. But, they didn't dress  
15 those actually. I was, I was, you know, surprised.

16 But, so I don't know how long exactly I  
17 stayed in the hospital, in the information I have, I  
18 want to say that there is my discharge from the  
19 hospital.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

21 MR. PETTIBON: And then a friend of mine took  
22 me up, he had been driven up there by his roommate, his  
23 girlfriend, and we took a, his roommate's girlfriend  
24 dropped him off at Mercy Hospital. He sat in with me.  
25 Let me use his cell phone to call my parents. And

1       then the hospital sent in a Red Cross counselor. I  
2       spoke with her and she gave me some information about  
3       counseling, a little bit of questions about, hey, what  
4       happened, you know, that. And the hospital released  
5       me. They gave me a taxi voucher, so, my friend and I,  
6       we used the yellow phone inside the waiting room in the  
7       hospital, and called a taxi. And they took us back  
8       over to the parking garage that I was parked at toward  
9       where the Constellation was. And then, like I said,  
10      because I didn't have my glasses, I didn't want to try  
11      driving home, squinting. And, you know, decided that  
12      it was, I figured I probably should get chauffeured  
13      that night. He drove me home. And then I just spent  
14      the night at his place. I initially went home, found  
15      an old pair of glasses that I still had, put those on  
16      and spent the night over at his place.

17               MR. TURRELL: Okay. I just have a few  
18      questions, Greg, just real fast.

19               The canopy was in tact underneath the water,  
20      it was still in place after the boat capsized.

21               MR. PETTIBON: I believe so. You know, like I  
22      said, the sides were in tact, but like I said, on the  
23      one side, you couldn't, I didn't even, you know.

24               MR. TURRELL: There was some structure there,  
25      though.



1                   MR. PETTIBON: Yes. And it seems like with  
2 all the struggling I did to get out of the boat, that,  
3 you know, like, it seems like I was going every which  
4 way but the right way for a long time, until I found  
5 like an edge of a window, it seemed like I couldn't  
6 have gotten out with the bottom.

7                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

8                   MR. PETTIBON: Because it seems like I would  
9 found that way.

10                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. From where you were  
11 sitting, could you observe the captain in the minutes  
12 leading up to the accident?

13                  MR. PETTIBON: Yes.

14                  MR. TURRELL: Did you see him steering or  
15 doing any engine controls during that time?

16                  MR. PETTIBON: You know, I didn't 100 percent  
17 focus on him.

18                  MR. TURRELL: That is fine.

19                  MR. PETTIBON: But, you know, seems like I  
20 remember at some point, you know, hearing bits and  
21 pieces of something along the lines like, you know, we  
22 are heading back, or heading in or find some place,  
23 something like that.

24                  MR. TURRELL: Okay.

25                  MR. PETTIBON: And then something like, well,

1 something like the wind take it.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

3 MR. PETTIBON: And then real shortly after  
4 that, we were just, you know, in God's hands, you know.

5 It is like, well, I say that, like I said earlier, you  
6 know, from when things got noticeably bad to when they  
7 went to upside down, was maybe 15 or 30 seconds. I  
8 mean, like I said, we were getting jostled and tossed,  
9 and but, it, it just seemed to me like prep time was  
10 minimal, you know, and I guess, you know, like a  
11 tornado, you see it a couple of miles away, and you can  
12 run for it or find shelter, but this was just kind of,  
13 you know, with the exception of not being out there,  
14 you know, maybe we would have turned, or flipped in  
15 some other situation in terms of maybe driving or maybe  
16 pointed in a different direction or whatever. But, I  
17 don't know what all, we couldn't have avoided the bad  
18 wind and we couldn't have avoided that. I don't know  
19 the other facts that play into it. But, there was no  
20 way to avoid wind like that.

21 MR. TURRELL: Sure. Just before you turned  
22 over, is there any visual object that you may have  
23 seen, any, whether it was a sky line feature or another  
24 floating object, another boat, is there something you  
25 saw --

1                   MR. PETTIBON: The thing that flips through my  
2 mind, is I mentioned that I actually have it commented  
3 on these notes, I walk you through maybe. But, when we  
4 really started getting jostled, I know that, I didn't  
5 know who the missing people were, the missing couple,  
6 and I initially thought maybe the woman that I saw  
7 floating towards the aft portion in the dark was the  
8 woman, but, you know, I spoke very briefly to a  
9 reporter last night. I tried to just tell him what it  
10 felt like, more than what A caused, B caused, C.

11                   MR. TURRELL: Right.

12                   MR. PETTIBON: And he was just a pretty good  
13 guy, and he gave me just a description, because I mean,  
14 he could tell me names, but, I wouldn't know names. He  
15 gave me the description that it was a very conservative  
16 looking young couple and as soon as he said that, I  
17 knew who he was talking about. And I, I knew exactly a  
18 that time. I remember her, she, very pretty woman,  
19 they were both fairly light skinned. I think she had  
20 her hair in a pony tail and it seemed like she had a  
21 black pants suit on, type, but very pretty. He was a  
22 very, he looked fit, you know, that is one thing that I  
23 noted about him when they got on, that, you know, he  
24 looked fit. They kind of, they did look conservative.  
25                   And but, that is about all that I noted on them.

1                   But, I remember as I said, I was sitting on  
2                   the starboard side in the mid section.

3                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

4                   MR. PETTIBON: And I want to say, like I said,  
5                   when we went hard to port, it seemed like when we were  
6                   getting really tossed and stuff, and I was, you know, I  
7                   was braced as hard as I could and I really didn't get,  
8                   really jostled and thrown much until we really started  
9                   going over. But, it seemed like when we went hard to  
10                  port, I kind of want to say that they were sitting on  
11                  my side to my left. And I don't know because it seems  
12                  like I saw a woman thrown hard. And again, there were  
13                  other women, other young women who in those conditions  
14                  and circumstances I could, they could have been the  
15                  same one, you know what I mean? I can't tell them  
16                  apart. But, I remember it seemed like a woman on my  
17                  left got thrown really hard and it might be one of the  
18                  other women. But, you know, it might be that they  
19                  were, it was them that were seated on my left,  
20                  possibly, I can't say that for certain, but --

21                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. And just before the boat  
22                  went actually capsized, did you see any, anything in  
23                  the water like maybe a buoy or another boat or some sky  
24                  line feature that would help us pinpoint?

25                  MR. PETTIBON: No.

1                   MR. TURRELL: When you came up on the surface,  
2                   and you climbed up on top of the boat, did you visually  
3                   see any cues about --

4                   MR. PETTIBON: You know, like I said --

5                   MR. TURRELL: You lost your glasses.

6                   MR. PETTIBON: I lost my glasses and in terms  
7                   of just getting by, it would be max a 100 yards.

8                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

9                   MR. PETTIBON: I mean, I can see about a 100  
10                  yards without my glasses, but it is blurry, so, you  
11                  know, I really couldn't say. But, you know, in terms  
12                  of location of where we were in the harbor, it seemed  
13                  like we were back in the middle, I don't know.

14                  MR. TURRELL: Your cell records, would it be  
15                  okay to get a copy of your cell phone records?

16                  MR. PETTIBON: Yes.

17                  MR. TURRELL: And I will ask you off the  
18                  record.

19                  MR. PETTIBON: Okay.

20                  MR. TURRELL: And that is all I have. I will  
21                  turn it over to the Coast Guard, Steve Rogers.

22                  MR. ROGERS: Greg, just a couple of quick  
23                  questions. Do you remember any safety briefs on the  
24                  way back?

25                  MR. PETTIBON: On the way back, I do not. I

1 say I do not, but you know, I can say that with a high  
2 degree of certainty, but at the same time, you know, I  
3 just had it on the way over, so it is kind of like, you  
4 know, when you are ever on a business trip or traveling  
5 and you look into the safety briefing, you get on the  
6 plane to go there and maybe the way back, but, I do not  
7 specifically remember it. But, like, you know, because  
8 I didn't remember it doesn't mean it didn't happen.  
9 But, I was thinking about, you know, what a good day it  
10 had been, you know, stuff like that.

11 MR. ROGERS: On the trip over to the Fort from  
12 Fells Point, do you remember anything off that trip  
13 that was peculiar, anything weather related, anything  
14 with the people?

15 MR. PETTIBON: To Fells Point?

16 MR. ROGERS: No, from Fells Point to the Fort,  
17 when you first went over, was there any happening that  
18 was unusual?

19 MR. PETTIBON: I wouldn't say so.

20 MR. ROGERS: No.

21 MR. PETTIBON: You know, the only thing, it  
22 seemed like the two guys that, the captain and the  
23 first mate, it seemed like they were pretty nice guys.

24 I mean, the first mate was, was, you know, talking  
25 about he had a collection of what I would call 30s,

1       40s, brass band, big band music. And that is the music  
2       we listened to on the way over. You know, people were  
3       talking about it. I want to say, you know, he pointed  
4       out a few things. He pointed out that a ship, as we  
5       approached the Fort, an old U.S. Navy Medical ship, he  
6       pointed out and he told us a few facts about that.  
7       That a group had acquired it and wanted to turn it into  
8       a museum, memorial and they couldn't get the backing to  
9       do it. You know, he made a joke, I don't know if he  
10      made a joke, I want to say he wanted to make a joke  
11      that, you know, something about the, something about  
12      the fence at Fort McHenry maybe, but, you know, like I  
13      said, it might have been, I heard it somewhere else  
14      that day, you know. But, I want to say he made a joke  
15      about and one of the ferry jokes, somebody made a joke  
16      about if had we lost the Battle of Baltimore and the  
17      defense of Fort McHenry that we might be all, the  
18      British could have won and we might be speaking  
19      English, you know. It is something, it was kind of one  
20      of those little side notes, you know. They seemed  
21      like, they seemed like pretty good guys. But, you  
22      know, that is kind of irrelevant if they are good guys  
23      or not, but, that was my, just personality opinion of  
24      it.

25               MR. ROGERS: Now, when the weather started

1       changing on the way back from Fort McHenry, do you  
2       remember anything as far as the crew giving any  
3       directions, or was there any interactions between the  
4       crew and passengers when the weather started changing?

5               MR. PETTIBON: No. No, they didn't, and you  
6       know, the weather, you know, it went from dark cloudy,  
7       a little bit of rain, a little bit of wind, to really  
8       bad, really quick. And my take on it is that, you know,  
9       nobody, it not like you had 10 minutes to sit down and  
10      prepare, you know, it was just one of those things that  
11      just, it got really bad, really fast. And the only  
12      thing I can think of that would have stopped, for us,  
13      some adman position said no boats on the water, a storm  
14      is out there. I don't think the crew personally could  
15      have done much to avoid it. But, you know, other than  
16      from an adman or management position saying pull, you  
17      know, no boats, a storm is coming. And, you know, I  
18      don't know what the weather situation was in terms of  
19      getting out warnings, alerts, but, I mean, all I can  
20      say that, you know, in West Texas, in Northwest Texas  
21      where I lived, we get some pretty big thunderstorms,  
22      and the occasion tornado and you know, sometimes we  
23      have a good warning, sometimes you don't. But, you  
24      know, other than a management position or adman  
25      position, it just, or just a policy that, you know,



1       when there are storms in the area, maybe the smaller  
2       boats don't go out. I don't think the crew, I mean,  
3       hell, the crew went over with us. I don't know what  
4       all they personally could have done, but maybe from a  
5       policy standpoint, maybe there was some things that  
6       could have been in place, but, I don't know.

7               MR. ROGERS: Do you remember or know of any  
8       material, physical changes to the vessel from the point  
9       where you left the dock, anything that the crew did to  
10      the vessel that was different from when it departed?

11             MR. PETTIBON: You know, it seems -- It seems  
12      like somebody, when I say that I heard bits and pieces  
13      of their conversation, what the crew said to each  
14      other, like we are heading in or, you know, we are  
15      letting the wind take us, it was cut the engine, let  
16      the wind take it. I don't, you know, it seems like  
17      that was said, but at the same time, it wasn't like the  
18      guy said it in a bullhorn and I could hear it right in  
19      front of me. But, I, I think that maybe the engines  
20      were cut or maybe he just didn't have the engine, you  
21      know, I don't know, maybe he just, the storm was too  
22      much.

23             MR. ROGERS: How about physically to the upper  
24      area --

25             MR. PETTIBON: Interior like upper damage?

1                   MR. ROGERS: No, the upper, did you make any  
2 passengers, crew, or anybody make any changes --

3                   MR. PETTIBON: You mean like open a window or  
4 something --

5                   MR. ROGERS: -- something to that effect --

6                   MR. PETTIBON: You know, like I said, when, I  
7 didn't notice that. And I tell you what, had if I had  
8 seen somebody open a window, I would have, I would have  
9 tried to make for that one, instead of trying to, just  
10 raw panic to get out, you know. But, I don't know, I  
11 can't comment 100 percent on that, on whether it was  
12 prepped, you know, to, in terms of opening windows,  
13 doors, stuff like that.

14                  MR. ROGERS: All right, that is about it is  
15 for me.

16                  MR. TURRELL: Ed?

17                  MR. NARIZZANO: I have been listening to a  
18 lot. I have the same questions. Were there any  
19 windows open during the trip, that was one question I  
20 was curious to hear?

21                  MR. PETTIBON: You know, I think had they been  
22 open, when we started getting some rain and you know,  
23 some water and the wind, I think I would have felt it  
24 more. I think we were, I think we were closed up. But,  
25 I mean, at the same time, as soon as we went over, we

1       were full of water, you know, and as I said, you know,  
2       when I went down on that one side, I couldn't find any  
3       windows open. And like the window that I went out, I  
4       don't know how many were open on that one side that I  
5       got out of. But, no, when things started getting bad,  
6       I don't, I do not know whether windows were open. I  
7       mean, obviously, I went out one, I am pretty sure.  
8       But, I don't know, something, the water came in just  
9       like that. And I don't know, I guess, I don't know. I  
10      am not going to comment anything, I am not going to try  
11      to speculate too much, but all I know is I don't think  
12      the windows were, any windows were open when we went  
13      over. That doesn't mean that maybe someone got one,  
14      but, it just seemed like when we went over, it wasn't  
15      some gradual filling of water, it was boom, full of  
16      water. And, you know --

17               MR. NARIZZANO: Again, I don't know if this  
18      may have been asked already, but, did you hear any  
19      radio traffic before it started to get rough?

20               MR. PETTIBON: Yes. You could hear some stuff.  
21      And it seemed like you could hear, you know, like, I  
22      don't know if you ever walked pass a police car, or  
23      somebody with a radio on, you know, you can hear that,  
24      you know, that, you might be able to, you know, you are  
25      not sitting there right there with it in your ear.

1 MR. NARIZZANO: Correct.

2 MR. PETTIBON: But, you could maybe generally  
3 tell that something, it seemed like and I say it seemed  
4 like maybe there was some, some background noise like  
5 that. But, you know, I can't say 100 percent certain  
6 on that.

7 MR. NARIZZANO: How soon after you departed  
8 the dock did this occur?

9 MR. PETTIBON: You know --

10 MR. NARIZZANO: Two minutes.

11 MR. PETTIBON: It seemed like it might be  
12 anywhere from like two to six minutes, maybe. I mean,  
13 it is, it is one of those things, it is like I take the  
14 subway to work every morning, and I don't normally time  
15 how long in-between stops, but, you know, I would say  
16 two, three to six minutes, somewhere in there.

17 MR. MURRAY: I have no more. Thank you.

18 MR. TURRELL: Just to touch on what Steve  
19 mentioned. You said something about the engines. Did  
20 you hear any change in the engine pitch at all?

21 MR. PETTIBON: You know, it, I would just be  
22 speculating.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Don't want you to  
24 speculate, that is fine.

25 MR. PETTIBON: Okay.

1                   MR. TURRELL: And the receipts and records  
2                   that you have there, do you mind if I --

3                   MR. PETTIBON: I would probably, you know,  
4                   like I said, what I have got is receipts, everything in  
5                   my wallet. It is kind of my seaport day pass. This is  
6                   just the numbers when I finally got to the National, or  
7                   the Coast Guard. This is, I guess my little ticket.

8                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

9                   MR. PETTIBON: And this, I guess, I want  
10                  certainly need a copy of it. That is my discharge from  
11                  Mercy Medical.

12                  MR. TURRELL: Okay.

13                  MR. PETTIBON: And, but, not a, not a big  
14                  problem.

15                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. And --

16                  MR. PETTIBON: You know, I don't know if this  
17                  is irrelevant, or you know whether it might be, but, I  
18                  know that somebody at some point had a camera on the  
19                  Naval boat, and I don't know, I have seen the little  
20                  pictures of, you know, the people hugging and like a  
21                  pancho around them or something, and but if you had  
22                  pictures, maybe I could say, yeah, at this point this  
23                  happened, or, I don't know. But, I have not seen many  
24                  other than the ones that the press shows. And I think  
25                  if you, if you had access to those, I could, you know,

1 give a play by play.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Before we end the  
3 recording, is there anything you would like to add?

4 MR. PETTIBON: I would like to add that, you  
5 know, apart from not being on the water there, I am not  
6 100 percent convinced that it could have been truly  
7 avoided, however, you know, maybe if certain things had  
8 been different, and we kept around the wind, you know,  
9 straight toward the wind, then perhaps, but at the same  
10 time, you know, the wind, the wind and it comes anyway,  
11 I mean, some people are saying it was a micro burst,  
12 so, you know, you really can't say on that. I mean,  
13 but, from maybe a company policy standpoint, hey, there  
14 is a storm in a 50 mile radius or area, no boats.

15 It also seems to me that the boat we took  
16 that I think at least, from the Inner Harbor, by the  
17 Constellation, was a much bigger boat, and it seems  
18 like that boat was used, and I don't know the  
19 scheduling and stuff, but, maybe that boat should have  
20 been making the bigger crossings, that crossed the  
21 Harbor from Fells Point to Fort McHenry and the smaller  
22 boat should have been used in the, maybe the Inner  
23 Harbor to Fells Point, because it seemed like on the  
24 Inner Harbor to Fells Point, we were maybe 100 yards  
25 from the shore most of the trip. But, you know, on the

1       one from Fells Point to Fort McHenry, you know, you are  
2       in the middle of the Harbor, and it seems like the  
3       bigger boat, maybe even if they had to schedule it,  
4       using the larger boat and fewer trips to, you know,  
5       efficiently schedule, that maybe it should have been  
6       set up that way. But, you know, I don't know the  
7       scheduling, I don't know the routes, so, it seems like  
8       had we been on a larger boat, we might have been, had  
9       more stability, more, more control.

10               MR. TURRELL: Okay. Thank you very much.  
11       Appreciate your time and please acknowledge again this  
12       is being recorded.

13               MR. PETTIBON: I acknowledge that this has  
14       been recorded.

15               MR. TURRELL: Okay. This concludes, thanks.

16               (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)