



Wesley Blakely



MGen. John F. Gore



SSgt. John Smith



LtC. Francis Briganti



Maj. Paluel Flagg



2Lt. Elizabeth Wysocki

On Sunday, April 8, 1984, at 2:41 pm, N11802, a C150, called the Groton, Connecticut, Air Traffic Control Tower and reported three men clinging to a capsized boat just west of Fisher's Island, Long Island Sound, New York. The pilot elected to remain in the area and circle overhead.

While control tower personnel were making the necessary notification to the Coast Guard, Fury 76, a UH1 Connecticut National Guard helicopter, reported on frequency inbound to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The flight was on a rescue mission in the local area with a medical emergency aboard. Upon departing the hospital, Fury 76 volunteered to go out to the scene of the capsized boat to assist in the rescue effort.

Traffic was exchanged between Fury 76 and N11802. When the pilot of N11802 had Fury 76 in sight, he immediately guided the helicopter to the exact location of the capsized boat.

With seas running three to four feet, the boat was dangerously close to the strong turbulent waters of Long Island Race. Fury 76, not equipped with any rescue lines, had to hover very close with the skids just off the water. Placing themselves in great danger, the crew and passengers then assisted the three survivors in climbing on board the helicopter. The survivors were then flown to the Groton-New London airport where an ambulance was standing by.

Due to this outstanding rescue operation, the pilots, crew, and passenger crew of Fury 76, Major Paluel Flagg, Lt. Col. Francis Briganti, SSgt. John Smith, Major General John F. Gore, and Lt. Elizabeth Wysocki, and to the vigilance of Wesley Blakely, pilot of N11802, "We Point with Pride."