

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7 *

ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI, * Accident No.: DCA18MM028

JULY 19, 2018 *

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Interview of: SHAYNE COLLINS

Showboat Branson Belle Facilities
Branson, Missouri

Saturday,
July 21, 2018

APPEARANCES:

MARCEL MUISE, Marine Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN VOLPE, Marine Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

MARY PAT McKAY, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
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I N T E R V I E W

(6:00 p.m.)

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2
3 MR. MUISE: So this is, this is Marcel Muise, and it's 1800
4 on July 21. We're at Branson, Missouri with Mr. Collins,
5 investigating the incident from the Stretch Duck 7, which happened
6 on July 19.

7 So Mr. Collins, can you tell us your name and spell your name
8 for us?

9 MR. COLLINS: Shayne, S-H-A-Y-N-E, G., Collins, C-O-L-L-I-N-
10 S. Birthday [REDACTED].

11 MR. MUISE: Okay, if we can go around, too, and just give us
12 your names and spelling.

13 DR. McKAY: Sure. It's Mary Pat McKay, chief medical
14 officer, NTSB.

15 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard, investigations.

16 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard,
17 investigations.

18 CWO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard sector of the
19 Mississippi River, investigations.

20 MR. VOLPE: John Volpe, NTSB, marine operations.

21 MS. LAKE: Cyndi Lake, NTSB, family assistance.

22 MR. MUISE: Mr. Collins, if you would just --

23 DR. McKAY: Whoa, whoa. You.

24 MR. MUISE: It's Marcel Muise of the -- with the survival
25 factors group, NTSB.

1 DR. McKAY: Thank you.

2 INTERVIEW OF SHAYNE COLLINS

3 BY MR. MUISE:

4 Q. So Mr. Collins, just tell us the story. What you saw, what
5 you felt, what you heard.

6 A. Do you want me to start from the beginning? That'd be --

7 Q. Whatever's easier for you.

8 A. Okay, and I'll try to keep it brief. So we got up to the
9 Ride the Ducks, the one that's -- I don't even know. I think the
10 one they call on this trip, the one that's on -- we got there --
11 we had went to -- believe it or not, we had just left the dang
12 Titanic museum, of all places. They decided to get the combo
13 tickets. So we got the combo with the Ride the Ducks.

14 When we, when we got in there, my sister-in-law, Tomlin
15 McDonald (ph.), had ran up there to see if we were even going to
16 be able to get on there. We didn't know how the scheduling
17 worked. The phone systems for -- we were having trouble getting
18 through to the Ride the Duck thing, and I hate using the websites.
19 And we were close enough. It was just like, let's just get there.
20 Tomlin went out and said, yeah, we can get on there, we can
21 (indiscernible), whatever.

22 This was for, I believe, the 6 o'clock departure. Somewhere
23 around that time. It wasn't any later, but it could have the 6
24 o'clock, could have been a little earlier, but I believe it was
25 the 6 o'clock departure. We got in line. The family in front of

1 us were the actual family that -- of the eleven, the -- or the
2 nine that passed away. And their issue was that they had the
3 tickets. They had printed them out, it looked like, but their
4 tickets were for the other Ride the Duck, which -- I'm guessing
5 it's the same one, but you have to print the tickets, I guess, to
6 wherever you're going to go. So there was the one strip, and then
7 there's a one on -- that's over there close by the -- I think
8 somewhere around the Bass Pro shop. Don't (indiscernible).

9 So they got -- they said, oh, we're sorry. You know, they
10 were real cool. Everybody's like, hey, we're sorry, I don't know
11 if you'll be able to go on this one. Just go to the ticket booth.
12 I don't remember his -- what he -- Greg (ph.). I don't remember
13 what the -- they said his name -- will be able to help you out.
14 So they got out.

15 And same thing with us. I don't remember if there was -- I
16 want to say there was a couple people in front of us, a couple
17 families or a couple people, whatever. And then the same thing
18 with us. We gave them the tickets, and we had the ones from the
19 Titanic. And then when Tomlin asked a question, I don't know if
20 they didn't understand her or if they just didn't -- they just
21 figured she had the tickets already printed out. But they said,
22 well, these are like a voucher or whatever. I don't know what
23 they said, but you know, it's like, this is the ticket but you
24 need to go to the ticket booth so they can schedule and actually
25 give you the Ride the Duck tickets. It was like a voucher for it.

1 So we had to get on line. Same thing. We went and exchanged
2 the tickets, and we were all sitting around in the waiting area.
3 A few people went to McDonald's, I think, to grab some cold drinks
4 or whatever. There's a big Connect Four, like, a big Connect Four
5 that was there, and a big tire. Like, a big Goodyear tire there.
6 And I was playing my nephew, Connect Four. And then [REDACTED] (ph.),
7 which is my son, and him -- got in the Goodyear tire and my wife
8 was taking, was taking this picture of them. And then so -- not
9 that that makes any point, but I'm trying to keep it, you know, in
10 a timeline here.

11 So to fast forward ahead, I think they told us around 6:25,
12 to make sure we were in line around 6:25. So we went through. We
13 got in line. And yeah, same thing as before. I want to say --
14 now I'm getting all messed up, and I want to say the family of 11,
15 I want to say they were before us or -- they were either right
16 before or right after. There was no ifs, ands or buts. And I
17 remembered yesterday, but honestly, now I'm trying to remember if
18 they were -- I want to say they were in there. I want to say they
19 went first, and the only reason I say that is because they were,
20 they were riding in the front of the duck. But don't quote me on
21 that. Because I remember them originally going to get their
22 picture taken and all that stuff. But they were doing that in the
23 first one too, but I'm pretty sure they went before us on the, on
24 the second tour, on the second trip.

25 So either way, we went in. We got our picture. We got in

1 the side. We were sitting roughly through this area. I mean, my
2 goodness. Somewhere through here. I don't remember there's being
3 this many life preservers on here.

4 Q. So this boat is not exactly the same.

5 A. Right, right. I was thinking that the adults were somewhere
6 in the middle, and I knew the children were over here. I told the
7 troopers, well, how did you distinguish between the adults and the
8 children? And I said, well, I don't remember if it said child or
9 adults, but I remember seeing on the life preservers it had, like,
10 an SM or something. And I was looking. I said, you could tell --
11 you could compare and knew what the side was -- what side was
12 what.

13 The children's are like that, but like I said, there wasn't
14 near as many. These are just -- look like they might be a little
15 -- not that it matters. These life preservers look like a little
16 newer, obvious, than what I remember seeing. And it might just
17 have been that there was writing on some of those, like an SM or
18 an SD or whatever, and that might have been, might have been why
19 it looked -- you know how it is when people start writing on
20 stuff. It looks older. And that could have been the case.

21 So we got on. We're sitting here. Like I said, my wife and
22 I were -- goodness, it's hard without getting up and walking in.
23 I would say probably, I would say probably right here.

24 MR. MUISE: We can go in.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can go in.

1 DR. McKAY: We can walk in.

2 MR. COLLINS: I thought you were --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

4 DR. McKAY: Go ahead.

5 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's your tour.

7 MR. COLLINS: So they have a -- you know, we came in through,
8 I believe, the side back here. Somewhere through here. We walked
9 in. Goodness. So I mean, I would -- looking at it now, yeah, I
10 would say this seems right. I know it was over here, and I know
11 it was somewhere close to the middle. That just seems too far
12 back. It would have to be one of these two seats. My son and my
13 nephew are right in front of me.

14 So what happened? And my wife let me in. I don't know why.
15 She wanted the outside. And I thinking, well you know, I'm going
16 to have all the -- she likes to sit on the outside of things and I
17 like to put my foot out, so I said, are you sure? And she was,
18 oh, you know. So I got out and she got in. And so then at that
19 point I'm sitting here.

20 My nephew and my son were here. My daughter and [REDACTED] (ph.)
21 were over here. I think Telissa (ph.), my oldest, was over here
22 with my -- all in this area. I don't want to lie, because I'm
23 going to sit there and just -- I'm going to overthink it. I mean,
24 I really don't know. They could tell you better where they were.
25 And I haven't talked to them about where they sat and everything,

1 because I didn't want to get convoluted. But we were in this
2 area.

3 We got in. We're taking off. The captain or the gentleman
4 -- there's obviously two crewmen. The black gentleman who
5 originally drove the vehicle on land was driving. The captain was
6 sitting over here, about here. King of just talking to everybody,
7 being pleasant, cordial, all that stuff. You know, the comic
8 relief part. So as we're going down the road, he starts talking
9 about different things, the golf course.

10 But I believe, before any of that, he did, he did bring up
11 the life preservers. And I remembered this later, because my son
12 was talking about it. But he got it -- showed real quick how to
13 put it on, which -- I wasn't too concerned with it. Hindsight 20
14 -- but I was talking to my wife and we were looking outside. When
15 we turned around, I was like, hey, babe, you know how to put one
16 of those on? Something like that. And she said she's always had
17 trouble with one of those. I said, well, just make sure it's
18 hooked around your neck, or hooked around your head or something.
19 So yeah, he did mention that. He took it off and was doing the
20 whatever. And now that was it. But he did say that, you know,
21 well, you're not going to need that on this. Which I mean -- you
22 know, I mean, I don't think any of us thought we would need it.

23 So we're going. Oh. So the man who was taking the tickets,
24 before all the -- kind of, see, this is what happens. I was doing
25 much better yesterday. I'm just kind of losing my timeline. When

1 we were waiting in line, the gentleman that was there -- shorter
2 guy; I believe he had a moustache -- he had a -- I don't know if
3 he had a -- if that was his real name or what. He had, like, a
4 two-stage name. It seemed like Billy Jean or Mean -- it wasn't
5 that. But it was something like that, like a two-stage name.
6 Because he had it on his name plate. And he was talking to us.
7 He goes, he goes, well, there will be a little change in plans,
8 because we do have a storm system coming in, if you're looking
9 where it's at. So we want to get you all on the water as soon as
10 possible. Get you all on the water so we can get out, so we don't
11 even have to worry about -- you don't have to get wet or whatever.
12 I mean, you're going to get wet anyway, but not that you'll have
13 to worry about, you know -- because it's a storm. Nobody wants to
14 be on a storm on the, on the lake.

15 So you know, I didn't think anything of it. I'm thinking
16 boat, lake. You know, no big deal, right? I really wasn't -- I
17 mean, you know, I'm really bad, and my wife -- I keep going on
18 tangents. She's always saying that I think about things too much,
19 so when I try not to think about things too much, well, this is
20 what happens, I guess.

21 But I was just chill. I was like, you know what? No biggie.
22 So we're getting here and he's, you know, talking this and that.
23 But to fast forward, we get around on the other side. I'm not
24 sure how far it is. It seems like it's quite a ways from here,
25 but you could see the *Southern* -- this is the *Southern Belle*,

1 right?

2 DR. MCKAY: Um-hum.

3 MR. COLLINS: You could see the *Southern Belle* as we're
4 coming, as we were up here and then as we're -- we came out. But
5 there's a loading dock or whatever. A dock that they all go.

6 There were three boats in front of us. We were the last boat
7 to go in. Two boats, I didn't, I didn't -- I don't remember if I
8 saw four boats there. I remember there was one in front of us on
9 the, on the ramp. Or if you don't want to call it a ramp, it's
10 just like a road. But it's like a road or whatever that comes. I
11 don't even know if it's concrete or pavement. I'm sorry if I'm
12 going not enough.

13 MR. MUISE: Take your time.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take your time.

15 MR. MUISE: Yeah.

16 MR. COLLINS: So we're stopping, waiting our turn. The
17 gentlemen exchanged seats. This man comes back here. The black
18 gentleman comes back here. And for the most part, it looks like
19 he's just, you know, leaning back chilling. He's done this -- you
20 could tell he's probably done this 100 times or whatever. He's
21 just chilling, you know. He knows his part's done for right now,
22 so he just gets to relax.

23 The captain takes over. He goes, well, we're just going to
24 have to mosey down here, whatever, you know. He's going with the
25 whole spiel, and he's like, ah, forget it. And then that's when

1 he, you know, puts a little gas on. Nothing crazy. But he made
2 the kids go whoa as it hits the water. And then we're all in.

3 And so the whole idea -- and I drew this for the troopers.
4 It was very horrible, because my drawing's horrible anyway. It
5 seemed like to me we were just pretty much doing a semicircle
6 around the, around the boating system. I mean, around the, around
7 the *Belle*. We came out over here. It looked like we were going
8 to come right -- well I didn't realize that until I saw the boats
9 ahead of us, but it looked like we were going to come out around
10 over here.

11 So we're taking off. You see, there's an island out here
12 somewhere and I -- when I put it, when I put it to the troopers, I
13 just -- to make it easy, I put land, boat, island. And it was all
14 just kind of perfectly lined up. I'm sure that's not the case.
15 If I went out there, I'd probably be like, shoot, the island's
16 over there. But you get the gist of it. The island's out there.
17 And as we were making our way -- it's not too far in. Like I
18 said, the waters are still calm. You can see off in the, in the
19 distance, you know, gray cells, storm clouds and stuff like that.
20 Like I said, though, I've been on lakes and rivers when it's
21 raining and stuff like that. You know, it's a lake. You know,
22 you're not thinking, like -- yeah.

23 So we're going right along, and he brings -- he asks for
24 volunteers. Hey, who wants to ride? Any of you kids want to
25 ride? I'm getting tired. You know, same old spiel so the kids

1 can get on there. My son [REDACTED] of course, he's first. Boom,
2 boom, boom. And you know, he's up here and he's riding. He's
3 only on there for maybe 30, 40 seconds, you know. The captain's
4 just going through there with him. My next is -- so that they
5 could keep the pictures easy. You know, and my -- when my wife
6 and my sister-in-law -- you know, so it's already up there. They
7 went in, took [REDACTED] as well. So you know, that way you went to
8 sit down, then another family brings their kid and they go down.
9 So that way -- and he said that. He said, just so we can -- you
10 know, so nobody has to get up and down, up and down. So they
11 brought, they brought [REDACTED] (ph.) over here. And I don't
12 remember if [REDACTED] did it. I don't think she did. I know my
13 daughter didn't. And then, and then it was the family that was up
14 here.

15 Wait. Can you all give me some names? Because I don't want
16 to say, the black family or anything like that. It's just not
17 right anyway and that --

18 MR. MUISE: That's the Coleman family, I think.

19 MR. COLLINS: The Colemans. Okay, thank you. Is that okay?
20 All right, yeah.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

22 MR. COLLINS: Okay, so the Coleman family were next. And
23 they brought one son -- or one of the, one of the kids and then
24 the other. The second one, that said he wanted to be a police
25 officer when they asked him. I remember that. The smaller one,

1 the -- I think there was three boys. The smaller one I don't
2 think, don't think he went up there. I really don't remember at
3 that point. At that kind of -- you know what? At that time I'm
4 just freaking looking out at the sunset. I'm watching the clouds,
5 and as we're making our way, kind of, around there, you know,
6 things are picking up. Nothing crazy. Waves are hitting. But
7 you know, nothing ridiculous at this point. Just coming in hard.

8 Somewhere around by the island, as we're getting towards the
9 island, I'm seeing off in the distance, you know, the storm cell,
10 you know, getting a little worse, getting a little nastier. And
11 the wind, you know, picking up the waves just a little harder, and
12 -- but you can see out on the -- out in the distance as the
13 water's clear. I mean, not clear, but you know, it's just nice
14 and easy and you can see, and then there's a spot where you just
15 can't see as well, like it's a fog, which -- or like a haze. And
16 I knew -- you know, I'm telling, I'm telling (indiscernible)
17 that's just rain. That's rain hitting. So it's coming, it's
18 coming in quicker than whatever, than I thought. I didn't think
19 nothing of it.

20 The first two ducks went around the island. We cut in front
21 of the island. We did not go around the island. At some point,
22 it started getting a little rougher. As we're going past the
23 island, it's getting tougher. It's getting a little nastier. The
24 captain's still talking. You know, hey -- actually he's talking
25 about the *Southern Belle* and things of that nature. I think he's

1 talking about the *Southern Belle*. I mean, I couldn't tell you
2 what he said.

3 At this point, I'm getting a little nervous. I'm starting to
4 white knuckle. Because I'm just -- like I said, I'm just thinking
5 worst case scenario. That's how I am. As we're making our way
6 further -- we saw the third boat -- at some point, I think we were
7 -- I remember we're head-on now. But then as we cut, they cut
8 closer to the *Belle*. And that's when I really, really -- when the
9 wind started picking up and he was trying to turn this way, I was,
10 number one, thinking, man, we'd have been better off trying to go
11 around the island or just coasting with this water with the waves.
12 Because it seemed like it was going to be -- like, it was already
13 starting to turn into a struggle to go against the waves.

14 No biggie. I'm holding on the thing, and I finally tell my
15 wife, you know, something's not right. Something's not right. My
16 boys are -- and my boy is whooping and hollering. My daughter,
17 she's, she's not paranoid like me; she's just anxiety. She's just
18 nervous about everything. So she's really worried. Oh my gosh,
19 oh my gosh, oh my gosh. My oldest said, [REDACTED] (ph.), she'll be
20 fine. Everything's going to be all right. They do this all the
21 time, this and all this.

22 And I'm trying to maintain cool. And I see the third duck
23 boat -- and obviously, I'm off in further distance, but to me,
24 it's trying to chug, and it looks like it's close to these
25 paddles. Now I'm sure it wasn't near as close as it looked, but

1 it almost looked like they were fighting against the current and,
2 like, they're going towards those paddles. They could have been
3 further out. I don't know. I'm telling you, from my angle, it
4 looked close, and I was like, that ain't right. I said, listen,
5 Tiff (ph.), I'm not -- I said, that -- something's not right.
6 Look at that. It's trying to push out and it's not.

7 The paddles were slightly moving. It seemed like they were
8 moving -- and I don't know if it was water or whatever, but they
9 were slightly moving. I couldn't even tell you now which way they
10 were moving. It seemed like they were turning not up, but out.
11 Like you know, like -- as I were looking at it here, turning down
12 towards the water, not coming up. Is that right? Yeah.

13 MR. MUISE: That's right. Yeah.

14 MR. COLLINS: And that -- yeah. And so that's what it seemed
15 like, coming down to the water. And I was thinking about does it
16 -- man, that's -- you know -- okay.

17 So I'm white knuckling, holding the -- I'm holding the seat.
18 And that's where I should have just freaking -- I told Tiffany
19 (ph.), I said, look at the captain. I said, he's gone deathly
20 quiet; he's not saying anything. And I saw it in his face. He
21 started to look just nervous. I mean, he's looking scared. I
22 mean, I'm not going to parse any bones about it. He's looking to
23 the mirror, looking up every now and then, but very rarely. He's
24 here. He's just doing everything, but he hasn't said anything.

25 And my dumb butt -- and not long before that, he said, hey,

1 everything's going to be all right. Or, we don't have to worry
2 about that. I don't remember what he said. He said something,
3 oh, but no big deal. Oh, this is nothing for that. You know, to
4 alleviate or whatever. And I'm thinking, let's just get the
5 freaking -- I should get everybody's lifejackets, start throwing
6 to people. Put them around your damn head. Put them around your
7 neck. Just put them around your neck. And I didn't. And had I
8 -- but me being the freaking clown that I am just thought, you
9 know what? These guys know what the hell they're talking about.
10 I was afraid that I was going to cause a panic, and there wasn't
11 any need for a panic. And that's what -- and I was like, well,
12 that might end up being worse.

13 At some point through here, they had brought these down
14 before it got too bad. Like I said, it was getting choppy before
15 we ever got to the island, but not bad. I mean, you know,
16 nothing. A pontoon boat had went by at some point, going back
17 that way. They had brought these down somewhere between there.
18 So it's -- you know, you're getting that claustrophobic feel. But
19 the problem was is nobody was really -- everybody was just having
20 fun. Everybody's laughing. And I let that freaking -- take my
21 better judgment and I -- so I didn't do anything.

22 And we sat there. And he had called out before they --
23 before we ever got here, he called the backseat or whatever, the
24 soggy bottom seats or whatever. Because sometimes they get
25 (indiscernible) in the water. You know, it picks up the water a

1 little. As he's starting to -- so we're starting to come towards,
2 you know, this side.

3 Can we get out of here?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Yeah.

5 MR. COLLINS: Kind of walk this way? I need to get out.

6 DR. McKAY: Sure.

7 MR. COLLINS: I'm making a mess. I apologize. I'm making a
8 mess of myself in here.

9 DR. McKAY: You're doing just fine.

10 MR. COLLINS: Golly, that's crazy, and everything seemed so
11 much longer out.

12 MR. MUISE: I do have a couple questions about the boat.

13 DR. McKAY: Yeah, and we actually --

14 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

15 DR. McKAY: -- we can't go that way, so --

16 MR. COLLINS: I can't, I can't walk through right here and
17 just look or -- I mean, how far can I walk?

18 DR. McKAY: Around, yeah.

19 MR. COLLINS: Okay, yeah. No.

20 MR. MUISE: Okay. We'll go outside the building.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, you're -- we're going to get to
23 go on the boat.

24 MR. MUISE: But we don't -- we can escort you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

1 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

2 MR. MUISE: But we want to, we want to focus on the boat
3 right now.

4 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

5 BY MR. MUISE:

6 Q. Is there anything else you can tell us about the boat? Or
7 your trip on the boat.

8 A. It just seemed, it just seemed -- that boat seemed much
9 older. This looks like, this looks like the best-looking one I
10 saw so far. Just looking at it. Of course the paint helps.
11 You've got, you've got -- it looks like a new military-type paint
12 on it and stuff like that. But just looking at this, I mean, it
13 looks -- I know it's not new or anything. It just looks a little
14 bit more well taken care of. You know, and we have school buses.
15 You have an old school bus, a new school bus where -- you know,
16 those little differences.

17 As far as moments -- no, I just think dingier, a little
18 older. And like I said, the life preservers seemed older. It
19 just seems like this one's a little bit more -- I don't know.
20 Just a little bit, I don't know, more durable. I don't know
21 though. It just seems that. When I walked up, that's what I
22 thought. Ours was dingy and white or grungy, and it just -- yeah,
23 it just -- this one seems more -- what's the word I'm looking for?
24 Like, if I'm looking at it and I'm on the lot and there's two of
25 them, I'm like, that's the lemon and this is the new -- you know,

1 this is the one I'm going to go.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. I guess that's what I'm pointing out. Like I said, less life
4 preservers.

5 Q. Okay. This is, this is Marcel Muise. Mr. Collins, can you
6 tell me about -- tell me more about the safety spiel. Do you
7 remember any more details, what they discussed?

8 A. They talked about the lifejacket.

9 Q. Did somebody demonstrate it?

10 A. Had I known about the, had I -- and I was going to talk about
11 that when we got out here. Had I known that that roof was going
12 to come up or pop up, it would have been a world of difference,
13 too, because I didn't know that roof could come off like it did.
14 I never thought it was going to just come off --

15 DR. MCKAY: Okay, so --

16 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

17 DR. MCKAY: -- can you back up for a minute and maybe start
18 with -- things were getting worse?

19 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

20 DR. MCKAY: And then what happened? You talked a little bit
21 about the roof, so --

22 MR. COLLINS: Okay, well that -- I was going to go down here,
23 but we'll -- okay, so as we're making our way this way -- what's
24 that?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I said we can walk down there.

1 MR. COLLINS: Okay, okay, okay. I just, I -- yeah.

2 MR. MUISE: I got, I got a couple more questions about the
3 boat, though. It's fine --

4 MR. COLLINS: Well we can come back to it if you want.
5 That'd be better.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

7 MR. MUISE: Okay.

8 MR. COLLINS: That way I can just go through the --

9 MR. MUISE: Yeah. That's fine.

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I know. I just want to look. I've been
11 put -- this is like a demon (indiscernible).

12 MR. MUISE: Yeah, sure. Absolutely.

13 MR. COLLINS: So.

14 MR. MUISE: We can walk out on the (indiscernible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

17 DR. McKAY: Wherever you want. Wherever you're comfortable.

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. It's crazy. Everything seems so much
19 longer and further and everything else in distance when you see
20 it.

21 So like I said, it seemed like that duck was pretty close to
22 the paddles. Pretty close to the paddles, the other duck. The
23 other two ducks I had saw at some point coming up over here. I'm
24 guessing they come up over -- maybe over there, whatever. I knew
25 it was over here in this area somewhere.

1 Sorry. So as we're making our way this way, that's when I'm,
2 like, saying, man, this is bad. The lower half dips, and then the
3 front half would kind of dip. At one point, that lower half --
4 there was a -- I thought it was a younger kid, and the only reason
5 I say a younger kid -- not a younger kid. A younger man. I saw
6 him pop up off that back seat and come up like this, because he
7 had got drenched. I think he was afraid he was going to get -- he
8 was like, whoa. And he came up a little ways. Then from that
9 point, it just got worse.

10 There's a -- I don't know about this one, but down below on
11 the side, there's some kind of doors or lids. And I believe it's
12 a ring.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Floorboard?

14 MR. COLLINS: On the floorboard. And the, and the only
15 reason I remember that is because, when that water went down, it
16 popped up. It popped up like this. Or it -- and it did that a
17 couple times. Everybody was laughing, giggling. They got up to
18 about the knees of the middle passengers, and that's when it
19 didn't -- they had already realized it was serious. And I -- and
20 literally, I'm looking. These panels are being closed, lights up
21 on top. I've got freaking eight family members in there.

22 And I'm like -- at that point, I'm like, what am I going to
23 do? I mean, I knew without a doubt, if I wanted to, I could get
24 the hell out of there. Though how do you live with yourself if
25 they don't? So I was just -- that point, I was resigned. I was

1 resigned to the fact that, what's the use? I sat there in the
2 middle, and as it went down, as it came down --

3 Somewhere between there -- I don't know if it was going up
4 and down, but that captain was at the top, and he was either up
5 against the seat or he was, he was up ready -- I want to say he --
6 I am almost positive he was braced up at the front or braced on
7 his seat. And I told the troopers, I thought he had pulled a
8 quick release latch and the thing came off. That might not be the
9 case. It could have been just that he -- because his window was
10 down too, and just could have been that he knew it was going to
11 come up. I don't know. I just remember here -- he's here. Boom.
12 And that thing just disappears and he's out. And I was just
13 thinking, you motherfucker.

14 And so now we're going down, and now I'm thinking, well we
15 all have a chance to live. Because there's no way I could have
16 got my -- there's no way I could have said, Tiffany,
17 whatever, do this, go whatever. You know, I just was -- it is
18 what it was. It was a deathtrap as far as I was concerned. And
19 then the damn, the damn roof comes off. Like at this point, I
20 wasn't even thinking. I probably should have known that. But
21 again, like I said, I was, I was kicking myself in the ass from
22 the beginning.

23 It came off. We were down. And I -- that's when I just
24 said, well, let's go. I'm making my way up, and -- we teach
25 survival swimming and stuff like that at the patrol and stuff like

1 that. So I -- you know, I'm not the greatest swimmer, but I got
2 an idea how things work and, you know, what's going on. And as
3 I'm going down, it's taking forever to get up top. But I'm trying
4 to remain calm, because I know more than likely what's happened
5 is, as the boat was going down, we were still going down and kind
6 of pulled us a little, might have. Whatever.

7 So it's taking longer. What feels like, what feels like I
8 was 25, 20 foot below, I was probably only maybe 10 or 12 foot at
9 the most. But it's taking longer than that. But I'm just holding
10 up that, holding up that.

11 I came up around somewhere over there. Never felt so
12 helpless in my life. And I'm all over the place, but that's --
13 you know, when we were at the turn, I think that was the bad --
14 I'll get back. That's when it got bad, because I felt like we
15 were going against the waves. And now we're trying to go not with
16 the waves, but fight the waves so we don't get too close to the,
17 the steamboat. And you know, so we don't turn into it. And I
18 just, I just felt like us brunting [sic.] up against it like that
19 is -- was not a good thing. I mean, it just -- and I don't know
20 enough about boating like that, but it did not feel like the right
21 -- but the captain was -- he had already lost it. I realized that
22 back over there when I told my wife. And it's -- I said, look at
23 him. I even told her. I said, look at him. He doesn't, he
24 doesn't even know what the hell he's doing. He's scared.

25 I thought he popped it. He might have known he was going to

1 come out, or maybe he was getting ready to try to force himself
2 out. I don't know. To me, and this is how -- it's just because
3 -- as I'm looking at him, it was like he was here in the middle of
4 the frame -- I mean, in the middle of the freaking roof up there,
5 and like he was here. And then it was almost like he hit a button
6 and he ejected out. I know that's not what happened, but that's
7 what -- it was so quick, and seemed like.

8 So we're going down. I'm fine, and now -- and like I said, I
9 ain't worried about myself. I'm -- it's not -- and when it's all
10 said and done, it's a freaking lake. And it's windy, it's nasty,
11 but I mean, it's not anything that somebody that can half-swim and
12 keeps a level head is going to freaking have a problem with. But
13 I started looking around, and I'm not seeing anyone. The only son
14 of a gun I see is the captain going off. And he's going off in
15 this direction in this area. Toward the steamboat. Towards here.
16 It's in this general direction.

17 I'm here. And I'm looking, I'm looking. And of course,
18 those waves are coming in high. They're coming in high. I mean,
19 they -- I'm up. I'm up. The water (indiscernible). So I'm
20 coming in. I mean, I'm hitting, I'm hitting. So it's hard seeing
21 people. I know my youngest, [REDACTED] he is a fish. I mean,
22 there's -- if he's out and out, he's -- there's no way -- you
23 could, you could pull him out to the middle of the lake and he'd
24 be okay, because he just doesn't get -- he doesn't get flustered
25 in the water. I mean, he doesn't. My oldest, Telissa? Same

1 thing. I mean, she might get a little more nervous. He might
2 just be too young to care or whatever, but he owns it. He
3 composes himself well. She would be fine. I knew my wife would
4 be more than likely okay as long as she kept calm. I wasn't sure
5 about my sister-in-law. I knew [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which is her
6 kids, swam, but they weren't, like, great swimmers, but they could
7 float and stuff like that. Because we have a pool. They're -- my
8 brother-in-law also has a pool. And so I -- you know, I wasn't
9 sure about them, but it was all a matter of are they up? I didn't
10 see anyone.

11 And I'm looking out, and my daughter [REDACTED] she sees me
12 before I see her, and she hollers. And she's the one that --
13 she's not a strong swimmer. She doggie paddles. She gets -- like
14 I said, she's very anxious. She gets nervous. And she's saying,
15 Dad, Dad, Dad. And I'm here, probably about where he is. And I
16 know the first thing I can -- that I can't do is grab her.
17 Because if I grab her, she's going to take me under. The only way
18 I'm going to be able to get her is if she's unconscious. There's
19 just no way I'm going to be able to bring her. Because she's,
20 she's doing it, but she's scared. And I -- you know, I've just
21 seen it happen. I've seen it in videos and everything. That's
22 why -- I mean, even just from what we talked about in survival
23 swimming and stuff. If somebody's swimming, they need to keep
24 swimming unless you have a device or something. And I'm a decent
25 swimmer, but I'm not a great swimmer. Maybe somebody that really

1 had -- you know, that was really skillful could grab her and do
2 it, but the way she was and the way I had already let my adrenalin
3 burn out on me, I think -- because I was exhausted than I should
4 have been. But because I was just worried about everything.

5 So she's here. She comes towards me, and I said, come on,
6 [REDACTED] let's go. We're going to make it over here. She goes,
7 Dad, Dad, I'm scared, I'm scared. And she's asking me, where's
8 everybody? And this and that. I said, don't worry. They're all
9 over here; let's go. And she kind of was trying to -- I was
10 trying to decide between the paddles that seemed closer, and over
11 here. But like I said, I told you earlier, I saw those paddles
12 moving and I wasn't -- I just didn't want to take a chance. If
13 they were going this way, I didn't want to have to worry about my
14 daughter. That's the last thing I wanted.

15 So we're here. And waves are hitting hard. I said, come on,
16 [REDACTED] come with me. Keep swimming towards me. At one point, I
17 get a little too close and she grabs me. And she takes a good
18 yank, and I go -- and I'm like -- not hard, because I had a
19 pulley. [REDACTED] you're okay. Dad, help me, help me. And I'm
20 like, [REDACTED] come on. It'll be all right. I got you. I'm not
21 going to let you drown. We made our way over that, and I kept
22 telling the guys it's like a pulley or something. I didn't know
23 it was a boat or what, but that red thing right there. You had
24 this, you had this catwalk and you have that.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The little tugboat.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Can we walk around over there?

2 MR. MUISE: We can --

3 MR. COLLINS: Or do you guys want to hear this? I don't even
4 know what (indiscernible).

5 MR. MUISE: I do want to hear this. Yes.

6 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

7 MR. MUISE: (Indiscernible) the tugboat.

8 MR. COLLINS: Okay, okay, okay. So I didn't realize it was a
9 tugboat. It seemed like a boating system, but I wasn't sure.

10 DR. MCKAY: But what we got to go all the way up and around.

11 MR. COLLINS: Okay, okay. We can, we can --

12 DR. MCKAY: Or can we go through? Okay.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, we can go through here.

14 DR. MCKAY: Okay. All right.

15 MR. COLLINS: Stop me if I start rambling. Like I said, you
16 know, this is this is all --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come around here.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: These guys are coming back
20 (indiscernible) --

21 MR. MUISE: That's okay. We're (indiscernible). I can ask
22 (indiscernible) --

23 DR. MCKAY: Yeah, we're -- I think we're done with the --

24 MR. MUISE: I can -- we can stand at a distance and talk
25 about it.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can go on up (indiscernible).

3 MR. COLLINS: (Indiscernible). Because my boys kept saying
4 there was pipes, and I didn't see the pipes. It just looked like
5 a, it looked like a catwalk to me. And I kept (indiscernible)
6 look at the catwalk. But my son said it was really
7 (indiscernible) that's where they ended up coming out, too.
8 (Indiscernible). But with the waves everywhere (indiscernible) no
9 matter what. And then I look at it. I said, that's actually
10 attached to the fo'c. Yeah. Yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is a --

12 MR. COLLINS: So as that's, as that's going up and down,
13 that's why -- okay. So --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

15 DR. MCKAY: Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh.

16 MR. MUISE: Sorry.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) this thing's moving.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all right. So we're over here
19 somewhere. Let me get off there. (Indiscernible) down there.
20 Sorry. We're over here somewhere.

21 MR. COLLINS: And my daughter and I make our way this way.
22 And we come, we come up right over here where these steel cables
23 are. And it had to be one of these (indiscernible), but of course
24 those waves were causing the water to come down much shallower and
25 then could rise up. Because at that point, that would not have

1 been a problem.

2 So we're there. And my daughter's hanging onto the side, and
3 then I'm trying to get up on top. At this point, I been, I --
4 like I said, I got, kind of, tunnel vision, I guess. I hate to
5 admit it, but I did, because I haven't -- I saw stuff going on up
6 here, but I couldn't tell you any of the scene or what was going
7 on because I'm just worried about getting my daughter here.
8 Because I really -- honest to God, I didn't think, I didn't think
9 she was going to get over there. I thought we were going to end
10 up in the -- I thought we were going to end up in the water
11 somewhere.

12 But the way the waves were coming was making it tough for my
13 daughter to stay up. But it was also pushing us this way, which
14 helped, especially for her. I think that's what saved us, so -- I
15 mean, when it was all said and done, because she was able to keep
16 up above the waves, and it was pushing her this way. Or I mean,
17 it sure seemed like it did a good job.

18 So we come. We're here, right about where -- I guess, that
19 middle somewhere. And I'm down. The waves come up. I grab -- I
20 got a hand on the ledge, and I'm like, okay, next wave I'll be
21 able to get it. And that just shows you. I mean, I was, I was
22 here and it dropped me. (Indiscernible). And my daughter, she's
23 just scrambling. And she's trying -- I was like, [REDACTED] just
24 hold on. Just hold on (indiscernible). She couldn't even hold
25 on, and I don't know. She was able to hold -- she was staying --

1 as long as, as long as she wasn't going down, I was good. And she
2 was still talking, so I didn't have to worry about that. It comes
3 up once or twice more. Boom. It comes up high. I grab the
4 ledge. I got lucky; the steel cable was there. I grabbed that
5 steel cable, and I just look over here and I start yelling. Help
6 us, help us. Get over here. Help us.

7 People were -- these workers are what saved us. These
8 steamboat workers are what saved us. And it probably might have
9 been some passengers. I don't know. I know on that side there
10 was people. But they came running. I just remember they were
11 wearing, like, dark blue or black. And they were just -- they
12 were all over anywhere. But they saw us. They made their, they
13 made their way in here. And I had two people on me, two people
14 following my daughter. Well one initially on my daughter. And
15 the only problem was where they were. And I couldn't talk that
16 much, but where they were, it was almost going to be harder for me
17 to get up out of the water.

18 So another person -- then there was two over there, two over
19 there. I told these two, just grab my foot. I kicked my foot up
20 on the side. He grabbed it and goes, I got your foot. I said,
21 just yank me up. So he yanked. We got out. I came around the
22 side. At this point, I'm like, I'm like -- I'm so ashamed of
23 myself, because I'm like, I should not be at this point. I let
24 everything get to me, and this is what happened.

25 So I go, and I thought I was -- I'm not sure what I was

1 holding on. It was that cable or up top there. But I'm here, and
2 then I'm trying to get underneath [REDACTED] or trying to get this
3 guy. There's a woman and a man. The man seemed (indiscernible).
4 He was holding on to her (indiscernible) nowhere to go. He wasn't
5 getting her out. So I'm here. We're pulling, and I -- he must
6 have got an adrenalin rush, because I don't see how
7 (indiscernible). So I don't know what happened. That woman was
8 just a beast. We finally got her, and she started getting up.
9 And once she got up, she was able to scramble up. I said,
10 [REDACTED] get right here. I put her on top, right about where
11 those -- right in the middle where those stairs are. I put her
12 right there.

13 And now it comes down to looking for the family. And that's
14 when I was starting to (indiscernible). I look over.
15 (Indiscernible) anyway. It just kind of seems off. But of course
16 what's happening here, as the tugboat's going like this, this is
17 going like this, and it's making a scissor motion between the two,
18 up and down. My wife, I see her. She's out on that
19 (indiscernible). I'd say where those pipes are disconnected,
20 disjointed. Probably a little closer this way. I see her.

21 And that's another thing, like -- so I'm talking -- babe,
22 where's everybody? And she had gotten, she had gotten a life
23 preserver (indiscernible) when they were -- guess they were trying
24 to throw them out there to them. She got dinged. She had, she
25 had a nice little contusion. So between everything that happened

1 and that, I think she was just -- I mean, she wasn't out, but she
2 was just -- she was not respondent, but she was having trouble
3 being responsive.

4 So I'm talking to her. I said, I said, babe -- the good
5 thing was is I noticed between here and here, the water was much
6 calmer. So I wasn't as worried about if something happened here.
7 But as she's coming this way, she was going to get up, and I was
8 afraid she was going to -- that scissor thing was just scary. I
9 mean, it was doing this, and the -- the guys there -- and I
10 couldn't tell you who else was anywhere else. I remember seeing
11 my daughter. I remember seeing my wife. I remember people
12 walking along the catwalk. But like I said, at this point, I'm
13 afraid my daughter's going to get up and do something stupid. I'm
14 afraid my wife's going to fall back in. So I asked her just to
15 crawl. And she got -- she was, like, crawling on her knees. And
16 she might have stood up. I don't think she did.

17 But she came this way. We got her on. And then we got up
18 and out. Because we're here and coming out. This is kind of odd,
19 because it seemed like that was out further, but my daughter saw
20 the -- one of the Coleman boys face down. So that's what I don't
21 understand why we're here. Because she's sitting, you know --
22 yeah, I -- it was somewhere through here, this breakage. And it
23 might have been (indiscernible) distance here. But he was out
24 somewhere on this side of the paddles from where we had started.

25 And she starts, she starts losing it even more. I will say,

1 when I was coming up -- I just happened to get lucky. Like I
2 said, I screwed up so much. But when I -- they were bringing me
3 up, I did see people in the paddle. And I told them that. And
4 they might have had people on the paddle. At that point, I didn't
5 see them. There was a guy here on the radio. He said, there's
6 people on the paddle, people on the paddle. It could mean that
7 they already had people over there, but I don't think he was
8 taking a chance. I didn't see anybody down there, but there could
9 have been people up here. Like I said, I was down there. I just
10 brought him. And I remember seeing people in the paddle, and I
11 told them -- and it might have been here. Might have been while I
12 was swimming up. But I just remember seeing people in there.

13 So I -- we come in. They stay just right here inside. At
14 that point it just becomes an Easter Egg hunt. If I remember the,
15 if I remember the order correctly, I went in. And Telissa and
16 [REDACTED] -- so my oldest daughter and my nephew were already in
17 there. All right? I'd asked, Tiffany, well, where's everybody?
18 Where's Telissa? Where's [REDACTED] And she could not tell me
19 anything. She said, where's my sister? Where's my mom? And she
20 probably asked for the others, but she said, where's my sister?
21 Where's my mom?

22 So I'm thinking, is her -- I mean, her number one are our
23 kids. So long story short, I didn't, I didn't find -- she knew
24 Telissa was in here, and she saw [REDACTED] make it to the other end
25 of the (indiscernible). She saw him make it to the, to the --

1 because I guess they had all came up against this. My son -- and
2 this is secondhand. My son; captain, the one who caulked out
3 there; my wife; and Telissa and [REDACTED] And that could be in the
4 order right there. I believe [REDACTED] was on the outside over there
5 somewhere. Some gentleman pulled him up, got him out. I don't, I
6 don't know in what order or how it worked. I know I -- Tiffany
7 had gotten pulled up, obviously, because she was on the catwalk.
8 I'm sure there were other people in there, but that's only, like I
9 said -- the whole reason I didn't -- haven't talked about, like --
10 re-go through all the things with my wife and kids was because I
11 didn't want this all to get jumbled up. Because that's what
12 happens. You start seeing things in your head, and I tried not to
13 do that.

14 So I'm just saying, I remember that happening from little --
15 just gathering -- I knew [REDACTED] was out, but I didn't know at that
16 point. We come in here. They've got people. When you walk in,
17 there's a little room inside there that probably goes up. There's
18 -- and in that -- it looked like a dining area in here. So
19 there's people in here, and then people around the dining area.
20 And I'm in there. I'm trying to catch my breath, and they're
21 playing some damn Jon Bon Jovi song, It's My Life. Which is
22 great, you know, when you run to it, but when you're -- you know,
23 all this happened. And it's not -- the other thing about that,
24 but me, I'm here and I'm, like, thinking, oh geez, somebody turn
25 the radio off. And it's not -- you know, I'm not -- laughing, I'm

1 like, somebody turn the freaking radio off.

2 And I go in. I see Telissa, [REDACTED] I said, where's [REDACTED]
3 where's [REDACTED] She goes, I saw him. I said, where'd you see
4 him? He was over there with me. Well where's he at now? She
5 goes, well, he's by Mom. And she's like, Mom, where's [REDACTED]
6 She's just -- kept saying, where's my mom? Where's my sister?

7 About that time, at some point -- [REDACTED] and Tomlin were one
8 of the two that were on the paddle. Of course I didn't see that.
9 I saw people over there, but from there, I cannot -- like I said,
10 I didn't ask for their stories. I tried to stay away from
11 everybody talking about it, because I didn't want to get
12 misconstrued. But they had been on the paddles.

13 So then it was just down to Nan, who was my mother-in-law.
14 Ronita McKinley (ph.), who was at the hospital, and then my son,
15 [REDACTED] And I kept trying -- and this shows you how bad I was.
16 This was going up and down, and I kept trying to get around the
17 paddles, just to see. I wanted to look down and see. I went to
18 the other side. I looked across the lake. And I'm just standing
19 there a minute. I'm just looking. And some lady comes, sir, you
20 can't be over here; you need to -- I said, ma'am, I'm fine; I'm
21 just looking. And I was looking out over on that area, just
22 looking on the horizon, making sure I didn't see anything.

23 I kept making my way around the paddles. And I'm looking.
24 And this shows you how spent I am, because looking at that, if I
25 had been in my right mind, I could have zipped right up that, even

1 wet and the boat going down. But I'm looking at that. I'm
2 thinking, how'd they get the paddles? That's how they went to the
3 paddles. And I thought about it and I was like, there's no way.
4 Because it looked that dangerous back then because I was so
5 freaking tired. That's how sad -- that's how pathetic I was at
6 that point. Because I couldn't -- I mean, I could have went up
7 there and looked, but I didn't. I was like, I can't do that.

8 So I kept going back and forth. I come out here, and I'd be
9 asking them, I'm looking for my son. His name is [REDACTED] has
10 anybody saw him? Not anybody was doing anything. At some point,
11 going back and forth -- and this is another (indiscernible). Like
12 I said, I could have jumped in and saved that kid. I was so done
13 I couldn't do that. That's how -- I couldn't even do that. I
14 couldn't even jump in and try to help anybody. I was so done.

15 He was down here in the stairwell somewhere. They were
16 trying to resuscitate him. I'm thinking -- I guess it was the
17 same Coleman boy. I don't know that for sure. But he was here.
18 They were trying to resuscitate him. And I sit there
19 (indiscernible), and here I am trying to look as it's going on,
20 wonder if they're doing it right. I didn't even know. I'm like,
21 I should be helping there and -- but I can't even -- like, if I go
22 down there, I'm just going to freaking -- there's nothing I can
23 do.

24 So there I am going back and forth like a freaking zombie not
25 being able to help anything. At some point, a woman came up to me

1 and she said, what is your son's name? I said, his name is
2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Now keep in mind, my nephew's name is
3 [REDACTED] So I'll finish all this, because you all don't need to
4 know all this anyway, I guess. But she came back somewhere
5 through here and up, and I think I was out here. And she said, we
6 do have a -- there is a boy up there. His name is [REDACTED] And
7 he's over there. He's okay. And so I'm, like, thinking, great;
8 that's fine. And I'm thinking, you know, he's just right over
9 there somewhere. And I'm looking.

10 I mean, it's, you know, it's mass hysteria over there. The
11 people that are helping are helping. The ones that, you know,
12 can't do anything are just -- you know, it's too many people. You
13 know, you don't want too many people over there -- are just
14 watching. And so it's -- and there are, you know, people coming
15 through and people giving them blankets and all that stuff. So
16 now it's just Nan, and we're looking for her, we're looking for
17 her. And I was starting to think, well, [REDACTED] up there; maybe
18 Nan's up there too.

19 And so we finally made our way out that way. I don't
20 remember where I was, if it was in the front or back. Got out of
21 there. And I'm looking for that same lady. Where's [REDACTED]
22 Where's [REDACTED] Because we get over there and I can't see
23 anything. And Telissa, my daughter's, like, did they say [REDACTED]
24 or [REDACTED] And now I'm second guessing that they meant [REDACTED] was
25 over there. And I'm not even thinking, because he was over here,

1 but I'm just thinking, what if they meant [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
2 still over there somewhere? And that same woman came out, and she
3 goes, hey, your son's up here.

4 So long story short, my wife did know that my son had made it
5 to shore. She just couldn't -- she wasn't -- she didn't realize
6 that she wasn't vocalizing. And that's why she wasn't worried
7 about anything but her -- you know, the others. And that's why I
8 was, I was thrown off by that.

9 So then it was just Nan. And as we're all gathered over
10 here, they brought Nan out. And Ronita, we call her Nan. They
11 brought her out on a stretcher, gurney, whatever. And she had a
12 -- one of those -- well I can't even think now.

13 DR. MCKAY: Oxygen mask?

14 MR. COLLINS: Just a little breathing apparatus, and they
15 brought her through. And of course, I was trying to keep Tiffany
16 from going hysterical. I said, look, she's okay, blah, blah, this
17 and that. It'll be all right. You'll be fine.

18 Yeah. So from there, Tiffany went with Ronita, with Nan, and
19 the rest of us stayed here. They went up there. They gave us
20 whatever. They gave us some clothes and all that stuff. And we
21 were just waiting to get the hell out of here and get Ronita so we
22 could get to the hospital.

23 And you don't need to know all that. You know, I'm sorry. I
24 just needed to kind of work this out. If you've got any questions
25 about -- anything you want to ask, go ahead.

1 MR. MUISE: Sure, let's --

2 MR. COLLINS: Now I've just kind of got it all in my head.

3 MR. MUISE: Let's get out of the wind, because I'm not sure
4 how good the recorder works.

5 MR. COLLINS: I'm sorry.

6 MR. MUISE: That's all right, that's all right.

7 (Indiscernible). Why don't we do it in here, or over here?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

9 MR. MUISE: So I just got a few more follow-up questions.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Marcel, do you want to -- you could
11 actually -- would you mind going (indiscernible)?

12 MR. MUISE: (Indiscernible). No, that's fine.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

14 MR. MUISE: (Indiscernible).

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is that? (Indiscernible).

16 MR. MUISE: This is Marcel Muise with the NTSB. We're
17 continuing the interview of Mr. Collins inside out of the wind.

18 BY MR. MUISE:

19 Q. So Mr. Collins, just a follow-up -- couple of follow-up
20 questions. The safety brief. Can you -- you mentioned the
21 lifejackets. Did somebody actually demonstrate putting the
22 lifejackets on?

23 A. The captain. Not the black gentleman. The white gentleman.
24 He was putting them on. Like I said, we had only been in, we had
25 only been in Missouri for -- since the day before and saw any of

1 the sights. So I'm more about looking at the sights. I wasn't
2 worried about something that you consider -- which I mean, I don't
3 guess it matters anyway, but yeah. I mean, he was showing how to
4 put the life preservers on.

5 Like I said, my mind wasn't really on him. I was looking
6 out, talking to my wife and just -- you know, we had been talking
7 about everything we saw. Said, like, this is a really beautiful
8 place. And then like stuff like, man, you know, the population's
9 supposed to be real small here. I think it's just 10,000, 11,000.
10 And we were talking about, like, on the weekend I bet you this
11 thing gets like 25,000, 30,000 sometimes. I bet you it's insane.
12 But you know, just all, just stuff like that. Just basic chatter-
13 chatter, daydreaming and stuff like that.

14 Q. How about the children's lifejackets? Did they point those
15 out?

16 A. Like I said, I don't remember him pointing them out. I mean,
17 he could have. But he said something about the life preservers.
18 I knew the small were up here. I don't remember going all the way
19 back. If I was -- remember correctly, they started up somewhere
20 close to the front and were here. It seemed like to me the adults
21 were here and the children are here. Or it could have been
22 switched. It didn't seem -- I know they didn't go all the way
23 down and back. But it seemed to me, like, I knew the adults were
24 on this side, and I remember seeing the small or SP or something.
25 And just looking at it, and you could tell what the kids' were and

1 what the adults' were. But I just knew that from looking.

2 Whether he said to them, I don't know. I would be willing to bet
3 probably not, but who knows? I would say probably not.

4 Q. At any time, did they recommend or suggest that the children
5 put lifejackets on?

6 A. No. He said he -- no. He said -- he goes, these are life
7 preservers, but for this bad boy, you're not going to need it.
8 And he did mention, like, sometime after that about how this had
9 been John Wayne's boat that he had used on deck, you know, on
10 shore and anything, this. What'd he say? Something like, you
11 know, if John Wayne had it, you know this thing ain't going
12 anywhere. And like, this thing is pretty much impervious. I
13 mean, he didn't say that, but -- I couldn't tell you the -- it was
14 a joke. And I was laughing about that, because I like John Wayne
15 and stuff like that. So I thought it was funny. But no, he
16 didn't, he didn't mention. You know, there -- nobody at any time
17 -- we, when we -- before we left, the lady -- one of the workers
18 inside told the black gentleman -- what's his name?

19 Q. Mr. Coleman. Oh, the pilot.

20 DR. MCKAY: No, no. The driver?

21 MR. MUISE: The driver?

22 DR. MCKAY: Mr. Williams. Robert Williams.

23 MR. COLLINS: Williams.

24 MR. MUISE: Ms. Williams. Sorry.

25 MR. COLLINS: One of the ladies says, I've got your check.

1 And he said, I ain't going nowhere; I'll be back to get that.
2 Something like that. And they gave a soft count. I don't know
3 what -- or you can call it a hard count. Whoever was talking to
4 each other. I want to say it was not, I want to say it was not --
5 I want to say it was that guy that was talking about the weather
6 storm, the one that had the double -- two-stage name. But they
7 were getting a count from each other.

8 And he said 29. And I, and I remembered that. And I knew
9 that that had to be 29 not including the crew. At the time, I
10 didn't think about that, but later on, you know, I figured, when
11 lists -- you know, reading all the count and stuff. But they did
12 give a count. Twenty-nine. I remember that. I remember the
13 check. And before we departed. And then they did say something
14 about the storm system through there. But that that wasn't -- you
15 know, that's why we're getting to the water earlier, because from
16 what I stood, from what I (indiscernible), they would do
17 everything, and then at some point they would go to the water.
18 But from what it sounded like is that they were going to make the
19 water earlier so that, you know, we could be done with that and we
20 didn't have to worry about the storm system or anything like that.

21 BY MR. MUISE:

22 Q. During the safety brief, did they talk about the side
23 curtains at all? How they worked? How they opened up?

24 A. No, no, no, no, no, no. I didn't know about -- no. Nothing
25 about the side curtains. I don't remember anything about side

1 curtains. When it started raining, we were coming right on.

2 That's when they brought those down.

3 Q. But there was no conversation about how to get out if those
4 were --

5 A. No. There was no extraction, there was no extraction
6 information. Again, as I told you, I kept -- these things, I kept
7 screwing up. Because I could have easily did that, asked.
8 Nothing. I didn't ask anything. I think those guys were probably
9 just used to going out. To me, honestly, when we were coming
10 across the dam, I was thinking, the most dangerous part about this
11 is driving this bad boy. I mean, I wasn't thinking about the
12 water. I was thinking, man, this thing is -- when you're going
13 across the dam or whatever, I'm looking -- we're looking out on
14 the rocks and stuff. Man, this thing feels like it could tip
15 over. I wasn't worried about the water. And there was my --
16 another folly of mine.

17 But no. He didn't say anything and I didn't ask anything. I
18 should have. When those things came down, you know, at that
19 point, like I said, the water was getting choppy. But I still
20 wasn't nervous, but it's a dang boat, I mean, you know? But yeah,
21 I guess I didn't -- you know.

22 Q. Do you recall any conversation that the captain had with the
23 shoreside staff, either on the phone or in person, about the
24 upcoming weather and the decision to go or no go?

25 A. No. Like I said, that guy with the two-stage name -- I want

1 to say two-stage name had said something where -- he showed us on
2 the phone. There's a storm system up here; we're just going to
3 try to get you all in and out through there so we don't have to
4 mess -- you know, so we'll get her in and out, and we don't have
5 to worry about that. If they talked about it, I don't know or I
6 don't remember them talking about the storm system. The only
7 other time it was brought up is as we were driving down. I think
8 it was past -- if you drive from where that's at, before the first
9 putt-putt range. As you're driving -- because there's a few of
10 them. There's putt-putt -- or minigolf, I should say. Minigolf
11 or -- first minigolf range, they, you know, said something about
12 we're just going to, we're just going to try to get you all there,
13 get done with that, and then we'll finish the rest of the tour.

14 Q. Okay. Let's jump forward a little bit to the paddlewheel.
15 You saw the other duck boat getting close to the paddlewheel. And
16 you saw it in reverse --

17 A. To my -- it looked close.

18 Q. Can you describe the water around it? Was it --

19 A. Yeah, it was -- at that point, it was, it was coming up and
20 down. It looked like it was, it looked like it was, it was
21 hurting, it was suffering. We didn't seem like we were doing that
22 bad at that point. And that's another reason why it made me
23 nervous and made me think it was closer to the steamboat over
24 there, because it was really hitting hard. It didn't seem like we
25 were doing near as bad as they were. And it looked like --

1 honestly, it looked like, you know, the steamboat's here, the duck
2 boat's here. And it looked like it was just trying to force
3 itself out, force itself out.

4 That's probably not the case. It might have been further
5 out. It seemed to me that it was pretty close to the freaking --
6 to the wheels. Like I said. But that was from a far view. I'm
7 looking from here at this angle where she's at and, you know, he's
8 the duck boat. You know, from a far angle, you know, things --
9 and it could have been much further out as opposed to how -- the
10 angle I was looking at. But I was already getting nervous because
11 it looked like they were hurting. And that's when I was really --
12 their duck boat made me nervous, because I was like, look at this,
13 this ain't right. I said, and look at that boat; it looks like
14 it's struggling, and it's too close to that steamboat.

15 Q. You mentioned that your boat turned at the last minute. Do
16 you remember which way it turned?

17 A. No, no, no --

18 Q. Just before you started taking on water.

19 A. No, we were -- so here's the island. Here's the steamboat.
20 And here's the steamboat. And we made our way here. And we just
21 started gradually making our way, like, back to shore.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Okay? We never made any hard turns or anything of that
24 nature. I meant, as we started turning, making our way back to
25 shore, somewhere through here is when it really just started

1 getting bad. And I felt like -- well somewhere through here is
2 when I had already told my wife, you know, this ain't right. And
3 I should have said something about the life preservers. I didn't
4 say a damn thing. Somewhere through here is when it really just
5 started -- when we were turning towards shore and we were making
6 our way that way, I mean, it really started just getting bad. It
7 started getting bad. I mean, it was bad.

8 In fact, I was surprised -- I don't know how we made it as
9 far as we did. Because we -- when we came out, it seemed like we
10 were -- and I don't know if it's north or south. It seemed like
11 we were on the backside -- I mean, we were, like, parallel with
12 that steamboat. Maybe not at the time. Those dang, those --
13 whatever you want to call them. The windows they brought down on
14 the side made it very difficult to see. But I mean, when I came
15 out of the water, I mean, I was -- the paddleboat -- because I'm
16 out facing the boat, the paddle, the paddle -- the red paddles
17 were right there in front of me. Right there. I mean, not that
18 close, but they're right there straight from me. So I don't know
19 how we even made it from where it started getting really bad to
20 about here.

21 And I think I was white knuckling so much that I -- like I
22 said, I got tunnel vision. This should not have happened. I
23 should have had everybody's life preservers on. Everybody's. I'm
24 not talking about my family's. I should have just been throwing
25 the damn things out and I didn't. I just sat there, and because

1 -- and the captain at some point through here is still talking
2 about the steamboat through here somewhere. I cannot, I can't
3 tell you exactly. I'm hoping these three little videos might be
4 able to piece it together. I don't know. But he's talking about
5 the steamboat. And at some point, he just quiets down. He might
6 have been talking to the crewmember, that guy.

7 I never really saw Mr. Williams again. He had just kind of
8 relaxed. He was probably -- he might have been down here talking
9 to him like this. I don't know. I never saw the gentleman,
10 really, that I can remember. The only time I remember -- the last
11 time I saw him was when he was the one -- he was, he was bringing
12 down the shutters, the blinds, the windows, whatever the heck you
13 want to call them. He brought down those. Okay? That's the last
14 time I remember seeing him.

15 Q. Okay. Can you describe the motion of the boat those last few
16 minutes? Was it -- we call this pitching, when it's going down
17 with the bow.

18 A. And that's what it felt like, going front to back.

19 Q. As opposed to rolling side to side. Was it --

20 A. Like I said -- and the reason I say it felt like it was going
21 back and forth like that is just because of the guy in the back.
22 Now had they could have been -- I really honest to God don't
23 remember. It could have been going left to right somewhat, but it
24 was going back and then coming up. Because the water came in.
25 The lids were coming up. So it could have been doing all that for

1 all I know. But I remember it was going back to front, back to
2 front. It never rolled over when it -- as I remember it, I mean,
3 it couldn't have, the way I'm looking at it. Because we're here,
4 and it's going, it's going -- and it just starts sinking, and then
5 it's just -- we're there. Everybody just, oh, stands up, and
6 down.

7 Q. You said -- when the water started coming in, where was it
8 coming in? Was it coming in over the --

9 A. It was coming in from --

10 Q. -- stern? Was it coming from underneath?

11 A. It was coming in from the back for sure. When it was tipping
12 over in the front, I could not tell you. Where I was at, people
13 were kind of crowded. If it was coming up from the front, I'm not
14 sure. Now I'm not saying it wasn't hitting brakes and water
15 wasn't coming over. But as far as dipping, I don't know how far
16 it dipped. It felt like we went up. But I don't know that, I
17 don't know that the nose was never down at a 45-degree angle or
18 anything like that. I just don't.

19 Q. How about from underneath?

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. Don't know.

22 A. Those lids were up. That water was coming in. When it came
23 back, I mean, the water rushed up. And at that point, when it was
24 here at the angles, it never stopped. It never completely got
25 out. From there, it was just coming up and coming up.

1 Q. So when the deck boards popped up, there was water in the
2 bilge already underneath the deck boards? Or was that, was that
3 --

4 A. I can assume so. But I don't know.

5 Q. Or is it --

6 A. Because the water, the --

7 Q. -- (indiscernible)?

8 A. No, the water, as it was raising up, could have caused those
9 to come up. The lids or whatever? Because the water got high
10 enough that that's when it was coming up. But it did, it did come
11 up. I mean, they were coming up. But I'd be lying -- I mean, I
12 want to say that it popped up and the water wasn't completely --
13 like, it wasn't, like, so far up, but I could be completely wrong.
14 There could be stuff I'm just telling myself in my head right now.
15 As far as I -- all I can tell you is that they were popping up at
16 some point when it was around -- anywhere from above the ankle to
17 around the knee, they were coming up.

18 Q. Okay. The captain -- just to confirm, did he go out the
19 front window, or he went out --

20 A. Okay, so if this is the front?

21 Q. Right.

22 A. If this is the front --

23 Q. Because that window --

24 A. -- and the roof's here, the roof's here, and this is why I
25 thought maybe there was a safety release. But I'm guessing it was

1 just pressure. I don't -- like I said, I should have known that
2 pressure was going to knock that off. I guess my whole thing was,
3 you know, probably thinking, even if pressure does pop off the
4 roof, it's not going to freaking do it till it's too late. And I
5 just felt, I felt like we were trapped, and I felt like if I tried
6 to --

7 So he's here. He's either up against -- he's either got his
8 foot in the chair or he's braced up here. But he's, like, this in
9 the middle. He is in the middle. It almost -- like I said, he's
10 here. And then roof's off and he's gone. Roof's off and he's
11 gone. Like I said, to me, it looked like it was a, it was a lever
12 or release. When we were out there, I didn't see a release. So
13 I'm guessing he was just there waiting. I don't -- I mean, if he
14 was going to do that, I don't know why he didn't try to go to the
15 front. But he probably just figured it would be harder to force
16 himself out. I don't know.

17 Q. Was that front -- that front window is designed to fold down.
18 Did you notice it open at all?

19 A. It did -- it folds down? No. Maybe that's what he was
20 doing, then. Like I said, what it seemed to me was just, like,
21 we're here. The roof comes up and he's gone. So I'm, you know,
22 telling myself, that son of a -- that's what I said, I just --
23 motherfucker. Son of a bitch. Something like that. I was
24 thinking, this motherfucker. He didn't look back. He didn't say
25 nothing. He didn't do nothing. He was talking about the

1 steamboat one minute and then saying, but we'll be okay in here,
2 something. And I'm -- don't phrase me. I don't know exactly what
3 he said. And then boom, he's gone. If that thing folds down,
4 then that might have been his goal.

5 And it might have just been, as he's going through here, the
6 freaking roof popped off. I don't know. That's -- like I said,
7 I'm looking at that. I didn't see or -- I didn't really look
8 hard. I didn't see a release lever, so I'm guessing the pressure
9 just automatically knocked that roof off, which is probably
10 designed to do that anyway, and I should have known that. But
11 like I said, I was not thinking straight. I'm thinking, we're all
12 going to die; what's the point in me trying to freaking live?
13 Because I did not want to live through that stuff.

14 Q. Okay, I just have one more question. On the bow, there's an
15 engine intake. There's a flap on the bow. It comes up and down.
16 Did you -- at any time, did you notice if that was open or closed?
17 Or did you notice the captain using a latch to close it?

18 A. It'd be -- I don't know. I do not know the answers to that.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. MUISE: John, do you have anything?

21 MR. COLLINS: I'm sorry. I don't.

22 MR. VOLPE: Well actually, let's go around this way and --

23 MR. COLLINS: Sorry --

24 DR. MCKAY: So more questions.

25 MR. COLLINS: I'm sorry. I (indiscernible).

1 MR. MUISE: That's all right.

2 DR. McKAY: It's okay. You're doing good. It's Mary Pat --
3 I'm just going to say my name for the record.

4 MR. MUISE: Yeah. Please.

5 DR. McKAY: It's Mary Pat McKay for the NTSB.

6 BY DR. McKAY:

7 Q. So you talked about the captain putting the curtains down.
8 Did they go all the way down? Did they go halfway down? How far
9 down did they go?

10 A. No, they -- well on the side, they went from where the top
11 was down to right here where -- I mean, where the, you know, where
12 the window --

13 Q. Where the windowsill is?

14 A. Down to the window. It goes all the way down to the window.
15 Or I mean, it was down all the way, because I remember looking
16 out, and you couldn't really see anything. The water was hitting.
17 The water was -- the wind was coming in.

18 Q. Okay. And it sounds like you're telling us that you think
19 you went out through the open ceiling once the roof was off.

20 A. Oh, I did. We did. I mean -- because I mean, we're here.
21 And I mean, as we're going down, it almost seemed like it was like
22 -- I mean, it's almost like looking up from, like -- you know,
23 it's almost like a dream now. Some of them said that their heads
24 were hitting -- I remember they -- and like I said, this
25 (indiscernible). Some said their heads were hitting the roof. I

1 must have been holding on or doing something, because I don't
2 remember my head ever hitting the roof. I remember here, it's
3 coming down. And I'm underwater, and the roof was gone.

4 Q. Okay. And do you remember the boat rolling over at all at
5 the --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- beginning or the end?

8 A. Here where there -- and it was -- it didn't go straight down.
9 It didn't seem like that. It kind of went from the back down.
10 Because we're here, and everybody's standing up and I'm holding
11 on. And I remember the motion going forward. And it wasn't,
12 like, just a straight example. It was just, like, canted, like,
13 slightly. We're here. And boom.

14 Now that's my recollection. If that's wrong -- I just
15 remember -- and like I said, for others that had -- for me -- I
16 guess I was white knuckling it so hard I didn't, I -- you know, it
17 could have went this much forward, this way backward. But it
18 seemed like to me we were all here, because my wife was right
19 here. Yeah, it had to go -- it either went pretty much like this
20 or like this. And the only reason I think it went like this is
21 because, most of the time, it was going down more than it was
22 going forward. Or that's what I noticed because I was further in
23 this.

24 And like I said, that guy from the soggy bottom seat or
25 whatever had jumped up. And it was hitting down harder than it

1 was the front, it seemed like to me. I'm sure it was dipping.
2 But that water was coming down from the back more than anything
3 from what I, from what I remember, what I saw. And maybe that's
4 just my mind because I saw that first, but that's what I remember
5 most of the water coming from.

6 Q. Okay. And I know that your mother-in-law -- is that right?
7 -- is in the hospital.

8 A. In the hospital. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. And everybody else doing okay? Anybody else injured?

10 A. No, everybody else is fine. I mean, (indiscernible)
11 everybody's good.

12 Q. Okay. Okay, and you're going to be staying here in Branson
13 --

14 A. Yeah. Like I said, it's a weird situation. You know, we got
15 our, we got our -- we've got my family's mother in the hospital.
16 And she's -- her heart's, you know, at 20%. But she's lively.
17 She's talking, and her focus is everybody having a good time and
18 the grandkids having a good time. And my focus is just on the --
19 just get the -- I mean, no offense, but just getting the heck out
20 of here right now, but realizing that the kids do need to do
21 something.

22 So it's really strange. It's really strange, like, trying to
23 -- like, I want to do stuff with them. And then you find yourself
24 having fun, and then -- or not having fun, but like, we were at a
25 little show there at the grand country thing. Just a little, you

1 know, jamboree type thing. And you find yourself laughing. And
2 you're like, fuck. Then you feel bad for laughing and everything
3 else. Had everybody came out clear, this wouldn't be a big thing,
4 but because, I mean, what, 14 people live? Only five besides my
5 family. So that's -- I'll take it, but that's fucked up. That's
6 wrong, I mean, in so many ways. I am so glad. I wouldn't want to
7 have it any other way, selfishly, but that's just, that's just --
8 you know.

9 Q. Well what --

10 A. That's tough.

11 Q. That's why we're here. We're here to make sure this doesn't
12 happen again. Okay, that's -- so we appreciate you spending the
13 time and talking to us. Because that's exactly what our goal is.

14 DR. MCKAY: No more questions from me.

15 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with U.S. Coast Guard.

16 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

17 BY MR. [REDACTED]

18 Q. Do you recall hearing the captain make any mention about
19 taking a different route? I know we -- they switched the schedule
20 of going water first and then road. But was there any mention
21 about, we're going to shorten our route, or we're going to take a
22 different route on the water?

23 A. No. I mean, they might have -- if they mentioned to shorten
24 the route, it was probably just because maybe -- I don't even -- I
25 haven't even looked at the route. I don't know what the regular

1 route is. You know, maybe they do something right before they get
2 to the waters and they just cut that out. But no, the main thing,
3 from what I understand, was getting to the water. And I'm not
4 saying they didn't mention it or whatever. That wasn't -- yeah, I
5 don't remember either way that part. I mean, I remember them
6 saying -- I mean, I knew they were going to take us to the water
7 first. And that's exactly what they did. I mean, they took us to
8 the water, we did that, and then you know, and I assume we were
9 going to finish the rest of the trip.

10 Q. And that, as far as you know, routine procedure?

11 (Indiscernible).

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. When you were sitting and you see -- you mentioned out there
14 the duck boat that you could, you could see the distance, the
15 weather starting to close in. Was that -- where was that in
16 perspective to where you were sitting? Was it from the side you
17 could see it coming or in the front of you that you could see it
18 coming?

19 A. I saw the gray clouds, like, as we were coming out. But like
20 I said, when we're coming out, everything's nice, smooth. No
21 wind, no nothing. As we're making our way out, water's getting a
22 little choppy. But like I said, it's a lake. You don't really --
23 I've never saw a lake waters really get that crazy. And if it
24 has, it's usually -- I didn't know that kind of storms -- like I
25 said, my folly. I should have been on the weather. I even looked

1 at the weather, but I didn't, I didn't check out the doppler, the
2 radar and saw, like, a chance for thunderstorms, this and that.
3 But I've been on boats. You know, I've been on the raining boats,
4 on canoes and things like that. And I guess I just -- I either
5 underestimated what a storm could do or I overestimated what that
6 damn amphibian boat could do.

7 But when we saw the gray clouds come in, I said -- because I
8 even mentioned it. And my wife might have mentioned them first.
9 You could see the storm system over there. You can just see the,
10 you know, storm cell over there way out there.

11 So as we're coming out, I don't know if it was out my side or
12 out the front. At this point, we got a good view everywhere,
13 because the rain hadn't started coming down, or if it has -- no,
14 that rain hadn't come down. Because that's when -- I told you. I
15 mentioned, as you looked across the horizon, everything looks
16 clear, you know, out the back side of where the, where the bell
17 is. You know, the paddles out that way. Everything looks nice,
18 and you can just see off in the distance, off slightly in the
19 distance, where the -- not the wind, not the waves, but where the
20 air just gets hazy, foggy, cloudy. Like you -- and you know, oh,
21 there's the rain way over there.

22 But you know, I wasn't thinking about that either. I figured
23 we were probably going to get rained on at this point, because the
24 wind had picked up or whatever, and where the storm clouds were.
25 I wasn't really, wasn't really -- I was not concerned at that

1 point. It really was, and like I said, the only time I started
2 getting really concerned is somewhere around by the island through
3 there is when the waves started to hit a little harder. Not bad,
4 but shoo, shoo, coming in. You know? But I mean, Lord, I mean,
5 those things were out in the ocean before, you know? And ocean
6 waves. And obviously they go from point A to point B, but I'm
7 thinking, we're doing the same thing. We're going around to point
8 A to point B. I'm not concerned about that either.

9 Yeah, somewhere through here I'm thinking, okay -- now I'm
10 getting a little nervous. And as we're making our way -- and I
11 don't know how you turn. We were kind of still coming out, you
12 know, that -- at some point, you know, that's when I noticed the
13 other duck boat, you know, through here somewhere. And I'm like,
14 man, something's not right, babe. This is -- and that's when I'm
15 getting nervous. I'm getting scared.

16 Q. Do you recall hearing or feeling any change in propulsion?
17 Engines revving up, engines shutting down or getting lower?

18 A. You saying that -- I'm playing that in my head, wanting to
19 say that.

20 Q. Yeah, sure.

21 A. But I don't -- I'm sure it happened. I mean, you know, if --
22 you know, I'm sure it did, especially if he's trying to go, kind
23 of go -- you know, the waves coming at an angle and he's going
24 this way. But you know, at that -- like I said, I --

25 Q. You don't, you don't recall.

1 A. This through here I'm thinking -- this through here is when
2 I'm saying, I should, I should do something; I should get the life
3 preservers. And I didn't. I don't remember, I don't -- I started
4 zoning out. I mean, to a point -- I mean, I -- because I'm
5 watching this guy. I'm watching the captain. I see him looking
6 up and down every now and then to the window, between his little
7 thing. Mentioned to my wife, look at him; he's freaking scared.
8 He's looking nervous. I don't think he -- you know, I don't think
9 he knows what he's doing. And I'm wanting, I'm wanting to be
10 wrong about this. I'm wanting it to just be a thing where this
11 guy knows what he's doing. That's why he's just -- you know. But
12 as we're -- I know I was right, because I mean, the way he looked
13 was just not, you know --

14 Q. So (indiscernible) --

15 A. He's talking about the steamboat. Everything is good. But
16 he -- what'd he say? You know, but -- you know, we're going to
17 get a little wet, but we'll be all right in this thing. Something
18 of that nature, something of that -- and then no (indiscernible)
19 just silence from him. Nothing.

20 And I don't know about Mr. Williams. I figure Mr. Williams
21 had probably never been in that situation. Because he didn't say
22 anything, do anything, whatever. But he put -- after he brought
23 those windows down and he was over there, he -- I don't remember
24 ever hearing -- recall him -- seeing him or saying anything or
25 whatever. And I don't put anything on him, because I think he was

1 just -- I think he's probably just the driver. I don't think he's
2 supposed -- I mean, I don't know. Just getting from the looks of
3 it, this guy does all the work. Not the work, but he does all
4 the, he does all the -- you know, he does all the talking, this
5 and that. And this guy just, you know, he does the driving. They
6 get to the ocean -- they get to the lake. He gets out; he chills
7 out for a little while. Probably when it comes back up, they
8 switch seats and back to it, right? So this guy's the bus driver,
9 and this guy's the guide, is what I'm saying.

10 But no, I don't remember -- I mean, you know, I'm sure there
11 was revving and stuff like that. I know the boat was having
12 issues. I know -- I mean, just chugging along, and the way it
13 wasn't going anywhere. And when it was going anywhere, it was
14 just, it was -- you know, it was -- it got to where it was just --
15 it was barely moving, you know? It was just more fighting just to
16 get along. And the water was coming in. And I'm, and I'm sure
17 the water had to be coming in on this side too. I don't remember
18 -- like I said, I remember dipping hard. But the water had to be
19 coming in here, because the waves were coming in through there,
20 you know?

21 Q. Yeah. Do you, do you recall hearing any types of alarms,
22 sirens, bells, anything like that through the experience?

23 A. No, I don't. I don't. If you're talking about our boat?

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. For sure no. I thought -- you know, I was thinking maybe did

1 I hear the steamboat? Maybe they hit a horn or something. I
2 didn't hear anything as far as on that boat. I don't remember.
3 I'm sorry.

4 Q. Nothing, like, when the hatches blew?

5 A. I don't remember anything.

6 Q. Nothing like that you heard?

7 A. No. Like I said, at that point when we were, when you know
8 it's done -- yeah, I gave up. I gave up for a minute. I did.

9 Q. What about any radio communications? Did you see or hear the
10 captain use any kind of radios while you were in the water?

11 A. If he was -- it's loud on that, it was loud on that boat.
12 Everybody was going crazy. Everybody's, whoa -- you know, it's
13 like riding a water ride. You know, a log ride or a raging rapids
14 type thing, you know, at an amusement park. What are you
15 thinking? You're not, oh, crud, you know. And my son even put it
16 the best. He goes, I just thought it was part of the -- just
17 thought it was part of the ride, you know? And so I don't -- I'm
18 sure there must have been other people that were nervous or, you
19 know, getting worried before -- you know, the same time I was.
20 But there were most -- for the majority, that wasn't the case.
21 Because everybody's laughing, screaming, making -- you know, just
22 like, you know, this and that. Just joking around, you know. And
23 it was loud in there.

24 If he was making radio communications -- he could have. I
25 don't know. I only heard him when he got on the, on the intercom.

1 You know, he never got on the intercom. He never said anything
2 after talking about the steamboat and then making a -- something
3 about, but we'll be okay in this. And like I said, at some point
4 through here, between -- when it started getting a little rough,
5 they put the windows down. Sometime after that is when he said,
6 you know -- he stopped talking all together. At that point, I was
7 worried about that -- the amphibious boat over there. And at some
8 point when he quit talking, I just realized that, yeah, this is
9 not good, because he's not saying a damn thing.

10 I mean, you know what? It's one of those things. He's
11 trying to get stuff done. So is that why he's not -- but you
12 know, my gut feeling was right. I mean, I saw it when we, when we
13 got out. When I saw, when I saw his -- I'm not trying to put him
14 down. I'm just telling you as I saw it. When I saw the little
15 rat -- when I saw him scurrying towards the water -- out of the
16 water and I saw him, and I saw -- well, and I'm looking around, I
17 saw him. And I'm looking at -- my daughter pops up yelling at me.
18 (Indiscernible). Part of me felt disgust and part of me just felt
19 sad and sorry for him. Because I think he got overwhelmed and
20 didn't know what to do. That part I understand, but the
21 (indiscernible) just -- nothing. That bothers me.

22 But again, it can't bother me too much because I was just as
23 capable of fucking telling people to put those life preservers on.
24 I was just as capable of being able to do stuff, at least to make
25 sure that, hey, maybe somebody got out. But my superficial fear

1 of I'm making an ass out of myself on this stuff is what caused me
2 to stop and not do that. Had those people had their freaking
3 thing, had their -- had I just said, put them on, I think most
4 people would have put them on. I think everybody would have.
5 Because you know, they don't know. They're just going to do what
6 is safe. And there was, there was time, if not for everybody --
7 if everybody -- if just a few people helped, we could have at
8 least had them there. Maybe they wouldn't have been secured, but
9 if more people had something to hold on to, even if they could,
10 hell, only get out of the water.

11 But I didn't do shit, and I know that guy didn't do any, but
12 -- so that's why it's hard -- I'm upset, because I know he didn't
13 do anything. And I can say, well he's the captain; he should know
14 better. But I knew better, and I didn't do a damn thing either.

15 Q. One final question for you. When you say that the top just
16 blew off, can you --

17 A. It just, it was there --

18 Q. Can you tell me -- or do you recall about what the position
19 of the boat was? In other words, was it underwater that it blew
20 off, or as it was going down it all of a sudden blew off?

21 A. As it's going down, I'm guessing the water took it away with
22 it. What I meant with this guy hitting a button, it seemed --
23 when I said it seemed like that, it was almost like you hit the
24 button and it pops off. I don't believe it rocket propelled off.
25 What I mean is, I know water pressure caused it to go -- I mean,

1 obviously the water pressure is what pushed it away or did
2 whatever. But he was there. It just seemed perfect timing,
3 because he's there and his hands are here. And so I just -- and
4 it just pops off. So I figured it was -- there was a safety
5 release, he hit it and it went -- as the water pressure caused it
6 to go away, it just -- it goes.

7 Q. But you were able to see that underwater. You were
8 underwater. You could see it depart from the, from the vessel?
9 Is that what you're telling me?

10 A. I'm here. That guy's up here. And that's why I know the
11 reason why the boat had to be like this. Because we're here, and
12 everybody said that their heads was hitting the roof. I don't
13 remember my head hitting the roof. I know we were coming up, but
14 I thought I was still holding on to the seat. I just remember him
15 being there like he was ready. And I thought he released
16 something, and then the roof was gone as we were going down. I
17 was -- when I decided to finally do anything, I was down
18 underwater. I saw the guy, so obviously I couldn't have saw him
19 underwater. I know for a fact I saw him. I saw him ready. He
20 was there. Now was there a point where I saw him and whatever
21 have you? All I know is he was there, and then the roof was gone,
22 he was gone. He was there -- and I thought --

23 Q. (Indiscernible) underwater.

24 A. Exactly. And I think -- I thought he just had a lever. But
25 looking over there, he didn't. He either was going through the

1 window or he -- I mean, I don't -- I didn't see a release lever.
2 Or he just knew what was going to happen. And that would have --
3 and had he just said, look, if we do go down, the roof's going to
4 come off; just swim to shore. Fuck, that would have, that would
5 have been a big deal too, because I honestly thought just -- like
6 I said, tunnel vision. I thought that was it. These are down.
7 I've got people all around me. How am I -- I mean, how am I going
8 to get out of this and get my family? And if I'm going to get
9 out, what's the point in not getting out with my family?

10 Q. Well you know -- thank you very much for taking the time to
11 speak with us. I know there's -- everyone else wants to talk to
12 you, and I'm really, really happy -- you know, I'm really glad and
13 you're blessed that your family's okay. I happen to have visited
14 with your mother-in-law this morning in the hospital. So she's in
15 good spirits, as you said, you know.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. So thank you for that. I appreciate it.

18 A. No, no. Like I said, I'm sorry if I'm running all this
19 together.

20 Q. No, that --

21 A. It's all playing -- I'm second-guessing myself now. That's
22 why I'm just trying to shoot as I know it, because I don't want to
23 start -- you know, you see things differently. Things come in,
24 and you have to try to decide, okay, do I remember that, or is
25 that being, is that being brought in by a third party because they

1 said this or they did that? And that's why I'm trying not to
2 contaminate anything.

3 MR. [REDACTED] No. Thank you very much.

4 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

5 MR. [REDACTED] (Indiscernible).

6 CWO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the U.S. Coast Guard in St.
7 Louis. I just had some questions about -- how was the
8 relationship between the captain and Mr. Williams, both before you
9 entered the water and when he stopped talking about --

10 MR. COLLINS: The whole, the whole staff, you know, as a
11 whole -- and I'm talking about the people there. Everybody
12 seemed, like, pretty tight-knit. You know? Because they were
13 all, they -- from the people that were talking to each other. I
14 never -- the ticket booth guy, the kid, he wasn't around there.
15 But there was, like I said, there was a lady or two that came up
16 from outside talking to him about his check, whether that was the
17 reason they were out there. The guy with the two-stage name. And
18 there was an older lady taking pictures. They were all over
19 there.

20 And I'm thinking it was the older lady with the pictures. I
21 hate to say "older lady," but she was elder -- she was older than
22 me about probably by at least 15, 20 years. I'm not saying -- she
23 was older than me. She's not old. She was older than me. She
24 was there. The other guy, the lady from inside. I want to say it
25 was just those three, and then those two. And it seemed -- I

1 mean, you know, they were talking about the check. He goes, well,
2 I ain't going nowhere; I'll be back. It all seemed pretty, you
3 know, tight-knit for the most part. Like they knew each other.
4 They've been doing this a long time. And that was good too,
5 because that makes you feel, hey, you know, the -- you know, of
6 course you do know when you do something all the time that breeds
7 complacency. But you try and think like that when it's something
8 so simple and minute as this. And, you know, an operation that
9 should cause any issues.

10 But no, there didn't seem -- for the times they did talk,
11 like, you know, they're -- because he's telling jokes and stuff
12 like that and cutting stuff up. But you know, their rapport was
13 good. Mr. Williams kept pretty quiet. He might have asked him a
14 question or two, but yeah, he was -- he did his job. He wasn't,
15 you know, getting on there doing anything crazy, so no, it was
16 good. There was, there was nothing between them two that I saw.

17 CWO [REDACTED] That's all I had. And thank you again for
18 coming in.

19 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir. Thank you.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Hi, I'm [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the Coast Guard.

21 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

22 MR. [REDACTED] I just had a few follow-up questions.

23 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

24 MR. [REDACTED] One was just seating arrangements. So when
25 you got onto the vessel, what made you guys sit where you sat?

1 How would -- how did the seating arrangements work for you guys?

2 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, my wife decided that. The Colemans were
3 up front, and I -- and me -- and this is how it is
4 (indiscernible). But me, I'm just there for the ride. She's the
5 one that, like, oh, we should have been here, I wish I had done
6 that, I wish we could have taken a picture of this. So I just, I
7 keep cordial. Okay, I'll sit there. She was standing up, but she
8 had me sit down. I was like, well, you want me to be on the
9 outside? Do you want me to be on the outside? Because this is
10 where all the view is. Then we switched out.

11 But yeah, I didn't -- yeah, now I think, if it was all filled
12 up -- I'm not sure if it was all filled up or not. I know there
13 were, there were some people up in the front. And I don't
14 remember if all the Colemans were up in the front. I remember the
15 majority of them had to be, because the boys were right there.
16 The lady that seemed like she was running the show with the
17 Colemans, the -- I don't know if it was the daughter, the older
18 people or what. But her and her -- I don't know if it was her
19 sister. There was two women, and they seemed like they were
20 running the show for them. I don't know if the whole family was
21 up there. It seemed like, if not all of them were there, the
22 majority of them were. There were, there were people in the back,
23 but I really -- everybody got on there so quick I couldn't tell
24 you if it was -- went from top to back, or you know, they put --
25 the Colemans went in there and they were there, and we just

1 happened to take the seats that were somewhere through there. You
2 know, I couldn't really honestly tell you.

3 And I -- you know, there could have been family between us
4 and the Colemans, so I don't really know as far as, like, how the
5 seating was done. I was just following suit with my wife. So
6 yeah, I'd be lying if I, if I told you if I was paying that much
7 attention to it.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Okay, and I just have one more question. You
9 mentioned, when you're in the boat when the boat was going down,
10 you were sitting and then you were standing. When did you stand?
11 How high was the water on you guys when you started standing on
12 the vessel?

13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, the water was -- that was when the water
14 had to be -- it was above the knee or right through there. It was
15 quick. It was here and then it was like, oh, that's part of it.
16 And then somewhere through -- but we had to make it more distance
17 than what I thought. I think, being so nervous about everything
18 for so long, kind of, you know -- my timeline's kind of frizzed on
19 that. And I say that because, when I -- like I said, when I ended
20 up watching that video just a minute ago earlier, I saw where it
21 was in relation to where, you know, I was thinking and where it
22 ended up happening.

23 So you know, my timeline's not -- I mean, I remember how it
24 happened for the most part, but my timeline of, you know, how
25 quick it was in between is pretty, you know -- I'm not sure

1 exactly. But I know it was ankle high. I don't know for how
2 long. It got up a little higher. They were like, whoa.
3 Everybody's still laughing and then, whoof. And then it just got
4 to where it was just chugging. And that's when, you know, okay,
5 this ain't no -- I already knew it wasn't a joke anyway, but
6 that's when everybody else realized it.

7 And yeah, it -- I'd say somewhere around knee high. And when
8 you stand up, it wasn't long before it was a -- you know, it was
9 waist and then boom. It was -- once it started, once people were
10 up and everybody was pretty much standing, that was it. I mean,
11 it was just -- like, it was done. I mean, had there been five
12 seconds between there? Probably. Did it seem like five seconds?
13 No. It seemed like almost instantaneous, but that was because,
14 like I said -- yeah. I was already -- I was resigned. Because I
15 was panicked for a minute and then panicked not -- because I'm
16 thinking, everybody's done. My family's done.

17 And I'm scared and I'm, like, well, what -- you know, what's
18 the point? I mean, could I have shot out the window? Yeah. But
19 could I have shot all my family through there? Could I maybe save
20 one or two? Yeah. Should I probably have? Well, had I did that,
21 not knowing the roof was going to come off, that might have caused
22 them more issues, because they might have got stuck on the bars
23 and stuff like that. I was resigned to dying. And I wasn't going
24 to try to do anything -- yeah, I know, I know when I went down I
25 would have started panicking. I mean, everybody, I'm sure, does.

1 I mean, I know -- I knew, but I knew I wasn't going to just try to
2 freaking force myself out. What's the point in living if your --
3 well, you know? It's -- there's no reason for it if you're going
4 to -- you know? But when the roof came off, you know, then I knew
5 everybody has a chance, so why am I not going to?

6 Does that make sense? I don't know if it makes sense. I'm
7 not sure if it does or not. I can just tell you that I was
8 resigned to it, and I wasn't going to try to make my way out.
9 Yeah, I was going to fight and do this and that, but I wasn't
10 going to try to freaking push somebody out of the way or do
11 something to save my skin, come out, and watch me be the only one
12 -- you know, can you imagine? I couldn't live through that.

13 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you, Shayne.

14 MR. COLLINS: Sorry about that. Yes, sir.

15 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you.

16 MR. VOLPE: John Volpe with the NTSB.

17 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

18 BY MR. VOLPE:

19 Q. Just a couple of questions. One, can you take me through
20 from when you arrived at the ramp till -- you said once you were
21 in the water it was calm. Could you just explain that for --

22 A. And you're talking about the ramp here when we hit the water.

23 Q. Yes, sir.

24 A. Yeah, I don't know. Everything was -- everybody was excited.
25 We saw the -- like I said, I want to say I saw the other two

1 ducks, but I don't -- I remember seeing the other two ducks, but
2 I'd be lying if I -- because you know, you can play in your head.
3 I'd be lying if I saw on the ramp with us, or if I -- it was when
4 I saw them in the water.

5 That other duck was in front of us. There was another duck
6 in front of us. I believe we were the last duck out. I'm almost
7 positive. I'm -- like I said, I'm pretty sure we were the last
8 duck. He's talking, yeah, this and that. And that's when Mr.
9 Williams and -- what's the -- I don't know the other gentleman,
10 the white captain -- gentleman's name.

11 Q. Captain McKee? McKee.

12 A. Okay. So we'll call him Mr. McKee, Captain McKee, whatever.
13 Captain McKee. That's when they switched out, somewhere through
14 there, and it might have been before they got down to the ramp.
15 Might have been right there at the ramp. You know, he got on
16 there and he's talking. He's still saying, I'm just still
17 checking things out, looking out ahead. I'm not nervous about
18 anything. I just like to look at the scene. I'm just looking
19 around at what's going on. At this point, I'm not worried about
20 anything.

21 He says some -- he's saying funny stuff. And you know, he's
22 cracking his little, you know, tour guide jokes. And then he says
23 something about, well, we just kind of has to ease up in here,
24 going nice and slow, this and that. And he's just still there.
25 And the second duck's going in. And he's, oh, forget it. You

1 know, and not -- that's just part of the skit, I'm sure, like
2 we'll go down here and then take off and hit that -- you know,
3 kind of hit hard. He wasn't going ridiculously fast, but it's
4 from -- but like ready to put a little gas on and, you know, hit
5 and get that -- probably just to get -- more than anything,
6 probably just to get that momentum going. You know, because I
7 don't know how with the -- you know, probably just to get it
8 going, floating.

9 And yeah, no, everything was cool. There was no, there was
10 no thoughts about anything at that point. Like I said, I had saw
11 the cells -- I mean, I had saw the storm cells. We saw the storm
12 system coming across the dam and everything else, but it was way
13 off, you know. And as we're hitting the water, we saw the cell
14 system. You know, we saw the cell system again, but it's still
15 out there. And even then, like I said, I wasn't worried. We're
16 in a damn amphibious boat. I wasn't expecting waves to get that
17 high.

18 And maybe they weren't as high as they seemed, but they had
19 to be pretty high, from looking to where I could have got that
20 tugboat and I couldn't get it. That means it had to be far down.
21 Because looking at it now, I could have been in that water and
22 just, you know, reached up and grabbed it. So I know the -- and I
23 know the waves are hitting hard anyway. Like I said, I -- once I
24 saw my daughter, I was just -- yeah.

25 And like I said, I wasn't -- I mean, I'll tell you honestly.

1 I wasn't expecting the -- I wasn't expecting to make it. Because
2 I could have easily swam out. I could have made it to shore,
3 could have done water. I could have freaking sat there and
4 treaded water and looked for people. I mean, you know, it wasn't
5 that bad for somebody who just keeps calm enough or that can just
6 tread water or swim. I mean, the waves are hard, but it's -- you
7 know, and it's coming fast. The scary part is if the rain's
8 coming down and the waves are hitting and all the other stuff, you
9 know. But when you take all that away, it's really not -- it's
10 not impossible.

11 But you factor in other people and the fact that I just
12 couldn't see anybody -- and then, when I saw my daughter and
13 knowing she's not a strong swimmer and she's panicking, yeah, I
14 didn't think I was going to make it. Because I thought what was
15 going to happen is she was going to go down and I was going to go
16 after her, and she was going to bring me -- so as we got closer
17 and closer, I'm actually going from just going like, I don't know
18 if we're going -- I don't think we're going to make it, to being
19 like, now there's a good chance we're going to make it. Now it's
20 getting scarier, because that mortality level or, you know, that
21 -- chances of us making it are that much better. And now I'm
22 getting more scared because now I'm afraid, okay, now what if we
23 don't make it? Now this is, this is something. We're here and
24 now we're not going to.

25 And yeah, and I mean, but -- yeah, I'm getting off on a

1 tangent. I'm sorry. I'm going back --

2 Q. No, that's all right.

3 A. Yeah, but the ramp, the ramp -- there was no issues. We came
4 down here floating right along.

5 Q. Okay, when -- do you recall when you actually at -- you know,
6 he sped down and he hit the water, do you recall if he kind of
7 stopped or he just keep -- did he keep going soon as you hit the
8 water and kept going?

9 A. I couldn't tell you if it was the momentum of the water or
10 whatever. I mean, obviously when you hit the water, we didn't, we
11 didn't brake hard or anything, and we didn't go hard or anything
12 like that. It was, it was -- from what I remember, it was just
13 kind of hit and smooth in. Now I'm sure we kind of -- when you
14 hit the water, it was kind of like this, but it was something I
15 didn't even, I didn't even remember. I don't remember. I don't
16 remember.

17 Q. Okay. And then the last question. Do you recall when you
18 first noticed that there was water at your feet? Was that after
19 -- at what point -- were you already turning towards the ramp,
20 towards the *Southern Belle*, or --

21 A. We had passed the island, and we were, we were making our way
22 that way. But I'm not sure if the boat -- I don't think we were
23 completely turned towards it. We were angling that way, you know.
24 Obviously I don't -- you know, you're looking to take a hard turn.
25 But somewhere through here is where we started hitting, you know

1 -- started, you know, getting the water in there. But even at
2 that point, I mean, I was -- like I said -- yeah. Somewhere
3 through there is when we went -- I keep on getting off -- but
4 somewhere through there is where the water started coming in.
5 Slightly.

6 Q. Okay.

7 MR. VOLPE: Well I just wanted to thank you as well, and wish
8 your family the best.

9 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

10 MR. VOLPE: (Indiscernible) your mother-in-law and --

11 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

12 MR. MUISE: All right. Does anybody have any other follow-up
13 questions?

14 Okay. Shayne, do you have anything else you want to add just
15 before we wrap up?

16 MR. COLLINS: No. Like I said, I know I'm all over the
17 place. I've tried not to talk about this except for with
18 investigators. And trying to -- I mean, I played it through my
19 head, but -- it's only the real catchy things, obviously. But
20 I've tried not to think about it so much so that I won't get too
21 misconstrued. So as I remember it is what I'm telling you. You
22 know? I don't know. I mean, I know what happened. I know the
23 meat and potatoes of it, you know. But I wish I just knew more,
24 and I don't. And I don't want to try to -- I guess what I'm
25 saying is I don't want to -- what I'm giving you is what I know.

1 I don't want to add to it by trying to think -- bring other things
2 in and start thinking about it too much and then saying, well, did
3 that really happen, or is that just something I'm putting in
4 there? What happened, what I know happened, is what I gave you,
5 and I don't want to give you any -- add anything to the -- as we
6 say down there, add cheese to the tacos. So I just want to leave
7 it at that.

8 MR. MUISE: And that's fine. And again, I'll thank you too.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7
 ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI,
 JULY 19, 2018
 Interview of Shayne Collins

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18MM028

PLACE: Branson, Missouri

DATE: July 21, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Eileen Gonzalez
Transcriber