



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Lacey Bowers Date: 7/20/18
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC#: [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I remember looking out the back starboard windowed doors and seeing both ducks trying to get in. I did not think much of it knowing that the docks were able to take on rougher waters than most. The second duck made its way towards our back when it started to take water. Again, it did not seem like much just because they were so close to shore so I expected them to be ok. By the time I made it to the port side doors the captain (James) was running toward me yelling for someone to call 911. I called right away and after being transferred a couple times I got through. I kept them updated as our crew jumped in to start pulling people out. I told them about the little boy who was non responsive and that they brought him

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of ___ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this ___ (day) of ___ (month), ___ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

on the boat to begin CPR. There were 2 bodies on our tug that were non responsive, one being what looked to be an older lady and the other had been covered already. I told them about the 2 people floating ~~over~~ in our paddle wheels. And kept them up to date with what our crew was doing while I was helping get victims inside and guests away (if at all possible) from what was going on. We had guests and staff jumping in to help pull bodies and help do CPR. By the time I got off the phone with 911 we had pretty much all living bodies on the boat (Shawboat). I had someone come to me saying we needed someone out front, I got a responder and ran out to the front of our boat to see people doing CPR on a black female that we assumed to be with child. We could not save her. Myself and another lead covered her body. There were boats coming in trying to help us save people. Our crew was bringing people up from our paddles and as much as we wanted to get the other bodies, we could not safely get to them.

From reading the press report, I am assuming my call was the first to go through at around 7:05. I called and kept saying there was a duck that went under, by the time I got transferred to the last person I was able to tell them we had bodies in the water and tell them we were getting non responsive as well. It all seemed to take forever even though I know it was a short time. Like I said we had the living pretty well out of the water by the time responders showed up. I was having my staff grab napkins to help dry off the victims. I also started getting all able bodies to land per ~~the~~ responders request. When we saw the little boy floating I was trying to find someone to go in. By the time I got someone he had washed up close enough for them to pull him in. Our officer on duty ran him inside while EMT began to work on him.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Lacey Bowers DATE: 7/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Showboat Branson Belle
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Food Lead TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 2:30 pm
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Lacey Bowers, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCG, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]
[Handwritten Signature]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Alaron Gage Date: 7/20/18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC# [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was on 2nd deck Starboard side Aft at 5min to 700 + all was very calm shortly after 700 I heard very strong winds and top deck furniture blowing around. At that time I went to the Paddle Wheel Room and saw a Duck struggling. Very shortly thereafter I saw the duck sink. No one on board the Duck had had a life jacket. The waves were overwelming and ^{most} of the passengers could not swim strong enough. Showboat employees did everything we could to save lives. I helped pull a woman's Body out of the lake by the front stage. She had already died. Other employees jumped in to help save lives.

the lake to

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of _____ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

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We Removed all guests & continued trying to find survivors. Finally Search & Rescue showed up to help.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____

POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____

TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Aaron Gage, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to _____

[REDACTED], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S. Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Witness Name: David Gaffin (Please Print Clearly) Date: 7/20/18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC# [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I currently work in Foods as a server, I was in my Station 1st deck starboard at the stern near the Galley I noticed a Ride the duck about to sink. I ran up to 3rd deck above the Paddlewheels to see if they were going to make it to shore. I watched the waves take the duck ~~out~~ under. At that point I only saw 5 people submerge. I then ran to the 2nd deck Bow to grab life vests, I took them to the back of 2nd deck and threw them to people on the ~~1st~~ deck and in the water. I then ~~ran~~ ran back to 1st deck Starboard the the doors next to the galley. I saw a body float by. I then asked for a life vest and asked the Captain to unlock the door, I then asked someone to jump with me. I ~~was~~ finally had someone with me.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of _____ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]
 SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Turn on
Back
of page.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day)
 of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

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At that point I asked the Captain 3 times if we could jump. He finally gave us the go ahead to jump. We ~~so~~ jumped in and swam towards the floating female. I got about 10ft. from her and got taken under by a wave. I almost drowned at that point. So at this time I had lost contact ~~at~~ with my co-worker Corbin. I went into survival mode. About 200 yds later the storm stopped and the state marina sent out boats. I could hear my co-worker yelling for me to see if I was still alive. I had been wondering the same for him. ~~A~~ A boat picked us up and the woman that we jumped in for. We then proceeded to search for bodies or survivors. We were able to locate another body. Male probably late 50's. Another boat came along and helped us load him into the boat. ~~We~~ We then continued to search for more. After about 10 more mins, we headed to the boat ramp where the Police and EMTs were at and beached the boat. Myself and my co-worker got off the boat and headed back ~~to~~ to the showboat to report to our bosses. From Everything I witnessed I just have one question.
WHY was NO-one wearing a LIFE VEST?
=

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: David Griffin DATE: 7/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Atrium of SBB
HOME ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Server TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 2:30pm - 9:15pm
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I, David, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to _____
_____, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Michael Grubbs Date: 7-20-18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC#: [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

At approx 0700 I witnessed two amphibious vehicles on the starboard side of the Shadboat Branson Belle. Both of these vehicles were having tremendous trouble navigating through the rough like waters. One of the amphibious vehicles took an angle in which he was able to get to the boat ramp and drive up on shore. The second amphibious vehicle was over taken by high wind and a big wave I witnessed the nose of the vehicle go under the water several times. The vehicle moved out of my line of sight I later heard there were people in the water." I and several other staff of the SBB went to retrieve life jackets. I went to the port side of the boat and saw several people in the water I then helped pull people out of the water and on to our tug boat deck. One of the people recovered was a non-responsive female. No pulse was detected and I began CPR, along

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[REDACTED]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

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with another crew member. Once relieved by EMS, I went to assist another victim. A boy approx. 8 yrs old was unresponsive and I began CPR. After 15 min of chest compressions, I was relieved by someone else. Another unresponsive female was rescued from the front of the boat. Myself and a Stone County Deputy started chest compression. After several minutes EMS arrived and pronounced her dead. After help was needed, I helped get other guests of the SBB and helped account for all SBB staff.

[REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: William J. Henderson Date: 7-20-2018
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC#: [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I arrived at the boat around 7:15. By this time the Duck had sunk and I could not see it. I witnessed survivors being pulled out of the water near the stern of the boat. I saw two bodies of the victims on the tugboat and witnessed a body floating in the water next to the pier. I went to the pier where crew members were assisting survivors. I then assisted one survivor to the landing so she could receive medical attention. I went back to the boat and with a fellow employee climbed to the top deck to look for survivors in the water. This was around 7:25. We saw nobody.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 1 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: William J. Henderson DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Bronson Belle
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I _____, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCGAUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Aimee Martell Date: 7-20-18
 Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
 City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was on main deck setting up my station. I heard the captain yell from second deck that a duck went under. I ran to portside Aft to see what was going on. Someone told me to go get life jackets. I ran as fast I could and back to get the jackets in the water. There were bodies floating in the water. Passengers from the duck were climbing onto the showboat. I saw a CPR was being performed on a passenger from the duck. I ran back to get more life jackets. When I got back to Aft, I heard someone say there was someone in the water on starboard side. I ran to find the captain that we need a rope. He was at the front of the boat I believe trying to get people out of the water. I went back to ~~the~~ portside Aft and a coworker asked me to watch over this little girl who was all alone and missing her grandmother. They were passengers from the duck. I stayed with her. I promised her I wouldn't leave her. She got a hold of her

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 2 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]
 SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day)
 of _____ (month), _____ (year)

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

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Parents using my phone. They were not on vacation with her. Her name was Alisha Dennison. They took her to the hospital. ~~to the hospital~~ I called her father back and asked for permission to stay with his daughter until they arrived from Illinois, because I promised her I wouldn't leave her. He gave me permission and informed COX in Branson, MO. I went and stayed with her until her family arrived around 3 am. I went home minutes after they arrived.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Amee Martell DATE: 7/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Showboat
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Server TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 6:30pm - not sure
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Amee Martell, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCGAUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Joshua Mifflin Date: 7-20-2018
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC#: [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

Approximately 6:50pm Captain James Plybon informed Shoreboat crew that guests were boarding early because of the weather. I was in rows K and L, about the midpoint of the vessel, port side. I had a large family come onboard almost immediately. As I was assisting with drinks I heard commotion and saw a small number of crew sprinting toward the bow and gift shop. I was unsure of the nature of the emergency and so I remained with my guests another minute or two. At about 7:00pm I saw the crew members, including Michael Grubbs, running

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 4 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of 7 (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of ___ pages

I encouraged Luke to find an EMT as I tried to point ~~somebody~~ somebody to the boy. Failing to see anybody react I began to pass my wallet and personal belongings to another member of staff so I could put on a PFD and dive in. While securing my harness another individual went into the ~~water~~ water for the boy. As I looked around I saw SBB crew on the paddlewheel housing with PFDs and rope assisting in pulling people out who were near or underneath the paddles. It looked to me to be the area near me that needed help. Climbing around there were two or three Duck passengers who were able to bridge the gap between the boat, buffers, and dock with assistance. After letting them pass I was able to get around the corner to help hold steady on of the paddles to allow a member of the SBB Galley staff to climb down and try to harness the body of a lady caught between paddles. After failing to recover the body at first we encouraged the crew member to climb back up and that we would return after helping where we would be more use.

On the starboard paddle wheel other members were lifting a woman onto the boat. She appeared unconscious but breathing.

back and forth with life jackets and vests. At this time I stepped to the rear entrance to gather information and to assist in any way I could. Several of the duck boat passengers were already ~~on~~ ~~board~~ and huddled in the stairway hall. It seemed like things were under control and initially I encouraged people to give space and not to crowd the rescued or the doorway, which I could not well see through because of Showboat staff holding the door open, standing in the threshold. As I returned down the ramp I heard speculation that a duck had gone underwater. At this point, I estimate 7:02pm, Captain Plybon called all hands on deck. I noticed more SBB (Showboat) staff with more vests and PFDs, dry clothing from the gift shop, and a few members of the team leadership on phone calls with emergency personnel and 911. As myself and a few others went outside we first aided in passing out vests, forming a line holding vests from the wind until another SBB crew member, Luke Weeks, and myself noticed the body of a young boy facedown near the Showboat paddlewheels.

As we waited for a stretcher we saw emergency boats coming in the distance. At about 7:15-7:20pm there were two boats that came to assist near the paddles. We asked them to look around the water beneath the paddles again to make sure we didn't miss anybody. After a quick search we were given a ~~basin~~ basket to carry the woman we had to the docks. As she was put on a respiration mask we turned to rotate the paddles so rescue workers on the emergency boats could ~~reach~~ reach the body of the woman between paddles. Those of us on the paddlewheel housing returned to the dock and into the boat. I remember seeing wheelchairs and gurneys going across the wharf and to ambulances. After checking with fellow staff we were instructed to take chairs across where the rescued could wait on landside. Shortly thereafter, returning to boat dock, SBB staff were ~~encouraged~~ encouraged to wait in the Crew's Nest building to do a headcount. Time between 7:30-7:45pm.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Joshua Miffin DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: SBB Atrium

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____

POSITION ONBOARD: Waitstaff TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 1 1/2 years

TIME IN GRADE: _____

I, Joshua, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]

USCG-AUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S. Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Jenna Mills Date: July 20th 2018
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] IMC#: [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was on second deck starboard side. I seen Captain James come through, jogging, talking on the radio to people screaming + then tell guests he was sorry + we had a boat in the water sinking. Continued out the front doors. Soon after I seen a coworker ran down port side second deck, toward the bow. I then ran over + after her, thinking people might be in the water. We get directed back inside + I went to the paddlewheel room + I seen passengers floating in the water behind the ship. One lady was floating belly up, face submerged. I ran out second deck portside doors, seen a coworker who told me to get life jackets. Ran to bow second deck, gave out life jackets to everyone at the door. Went down to the back of the boat, outside aft by the wheel/paddlewheel. ->

(back room)

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 2 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this (day) of (month), (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of pages

I put 2 life jackets on ~~two~~ 2 guests that were holding
the wheels as hard as ~~they~~ they could from moving because
~~we~~ we had passengers coming up on the wheels. I then went
to the dock & was told ~~to get out~~ to find and/or give clothes.
~~to~~ ~~Conceded~~ ~~passengers~~ passengers coming out & the bodies ~~of~~
we ^{the} deceased on tug boat dock where people had come & were
hanging on. I then jumped back on the aft outside by
the paddle wheels. Jenna Scroggins was back there with me
& some marine crew. Seeing what we could do we both
then begged one of the crew to let one of us jump down in the
paddle wheels to assist/rescue a woman who was barely
hanging on/prapped who looked unconscious. Marine crew
was hesitant & watching out for our safety but finally
agreed. Jenna jumped down & I set on the side between the
paddle wheels to assist/~~to~~ watch & grab Jenna/the guest
just in case, while the marine crew did the same we moved
the wheels up to get Jenna & the passenger level to be able
to get them on board. @ Myself, the marine crew & guests
assisted in getting her to safety. We then issued to get
everyone who was mobile, off the ~~the~~ the boat. We then were
issued to get chairs & bring them deckside for the passengers.
We then were issued back on the dock & then to ~~leave~~
Crews nest where we waited until the ~~the~~ to leave.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Jenna Mills DATE: 7/20/2018 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Show Boat
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Sever TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 6:30pm - Not Sure
TIME IN GRADE: 7 year, 2 months

I Jenna Mills, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCGAUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Elizabeth Romero Date: 07/20/2018
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] IMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

On July the 19th I was scanning tickets on the landing of the Showboat Branson Belle it was approx 1903 in the evening when the storm came in I stopped boarding of the Showboat per the Captains order. We were watching both duck boats fight the waves and I heard our captain on the radio calling out that winds were over 70mph. Both ducks had their bow pointed north into the storm and were on the starboard side of the showboat I lost sight of them when they passed our bow after about a minute I saw both duck boats coming past our stern they were headed toward the north duck ramp. the first duck made it to the

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 4 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this (day)
of (month), (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

ramp and the second duck was taking waves to his port side as he was now broad side ~~to~~^{to} the storm at approx 1905 he was taking on water, as soon as his stern dropped below the water line the whole vessel went under in 10-15 seconds. I saw alot of people in the water so myself and Sgt [REDACTED] of the stone county sherriffs Dept ran down to the barge of the showboat. I put on a work vest and had a member of the showboat wait staff pass me the life ring with the 65 ft lanyard. I ran to the tug boat connected to the barge I threw the life ring to a young woman holding onto our barges stiff arm and told her to grab the ring I used it to pull her to the tugboat then myself and Stacy another deckhand pulled her onto the tugboat once she was up I threw the ring to an older lady holding onto the stiff arm she grabbed the ring and we pulled her to the tugboat and pulled her onto the tugboat. Stacy threw the ring again but the two people still holding the stiff arm wouldn't grab it they were being helped onto the stiffarm by other individuals. Myself and Stacy then pulled up a woman that was floating onto the stern but she was deceased. Sgt [REDACTED] called me

to help get a woman out of the water. [REDACTED] and Cory West had her arms so I grabbed her pants and we got her onto the tug boat. I then helped get another older lady out of the water who was deceased they started cpr on her while I was trying to get ~~the~~^{ER} another man from the water. The man told me get the kid first and handed me a child approx 6-9 years old I lied him on the deck he was unconsious and started cpr while the man climbed onto the tugboat under his own power. I stopped cpr so they could take the child to the barge to the ent. I proceeded to the fantail of the showboat where several people had pulled up a lady who was alive and in shock Stacy was with her. We waved down a rescue boat and got a basket from them we placed the lady into the basket and 5 of us got her off the fantail of the showboat and onto the barge. myself and Captain Jacob then turned our port paddle wheel of the showboat to get a body that was floating between the paddles to the rescue boat. The storm had stopped and a police rescue boat was collecting the deceased I helped transfer the deceased lady on the stern of the tugboat to their boat Then the other lady that was deceased on the tug boat

I carried by myself and handed to the person on the boat. I was then handed ~~me~~^{me} a blanket to cover the child I pulled from the water he was deceased I handed it to a fire fighter on the barge he then brought the child to me and I carried him on the tug boat to the boat collecting deceased I then proceeded to the bow of the showboat and myself and 4 officers used our rescue basket to transfer a deceased lady down the stage onto the boat.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Elijah Romero, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to _____
[REDACTED], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Jenna Scroggins Date: 07/20/18
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC#: [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

Thursday the 19th around 6:50 pm I seen 2 duck on the Starboard Side of the boat one was about 50 feet from the boat and one was about 150 ft. The one that was 50ft from the boat was moving towards the ramp at good Speed, but not recklessly. The other duck that was 150ft from the boat was slowly moving. I was told to go plate up in the galley. I got about 5 plates done and it was a little after 7 pm and David ran through the galley saying a Duck had submerged into the water we needed to help them. I ran to the 4th Deck to get life jackets and Captain Jacob said to go to 3rd Deck to get adult life jackets. I grabbed all I could carry and ran down stairs. I got to the back of the boat and someone behind the paddle wheel said we need a rope. I ran

1 of 3

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of ___ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of July (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

to the front of the boat to grab a rope. I ran back the same guy told me to tie the rope down to something. I tied the ~~rope~~ ~~the~~ rope to the boat and started to move towards the middle of the paddle wheels. There were 2 people standing on the port side paddle wheel and there were a lot of people keeping the paddle wheel from moving on port side. I looked to starboard side and seen a green purse ~~dangled~~ dangling on a paddle wheel. I looked closer and seen a lady hanging on ~~a~~ the starboard side paddle wheel with ~~another~~ Stacy trying to keep it from moving. I yelled at Chris Womack ~~to~~ and said there was a lady down there. I asked if I could go down there and help her all the way up. ~~I~~ Chris tried to hand her a life vest but she wasn't moving. I asked him if I could go down there to get a life vest on her or help her get up on the paddle wheel better. Jenna Mills the server told Chris to let me go down on the water. Once I got down in the paddle wheels they handed me a jacket I ~~had~~ tried to ask the lady to hold her head up so I could put ~~it~~ it on her. She lifted her head up for about 10 seconds and put ~~it~~ it back down on the paddle wheel. I kept trying to talk to her and put the life jacket on her but she was out of it. By that ^{time} I ~~was~~ ~~to~~ grabbed her belt loop and her arm to try to move her on the paddle wheel a little bit better. I ~~then~~ saw her ~~ribs~~ ribs were pinched between the metal and the wood of the paddle wheel. I pulled her up as much as

possible and people started to move the paddle wheel around. Once we got level I took her left arm and belt loop and lifted her on the boat. ~~Some~~ ~~one~~ Someone told me to go get a respirator from the ~~EMT~~ EMT but it was being used. I ran to ~~the~~ dock to get more help by that time the EMT'S were on the dock trying to get over to help her. When the got her off the boat I found the rest of her family and assisted them with finding their son and the father-in-law.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Jenna Scroggins DATE: 07/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Showboat Artium
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # [REDACTED] PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Servers Assistant TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 7 pm
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I, Jenna Scroggins, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCG-AUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Garrett Spain 3588 Date: 7/20/18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC# [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was at bagchecks when we saw the ducks. We got everyone indoors and I moved near the stairs down to the bridge. Then I saw the duck get swallowed by the water, ~~and~~ tilting stern first. I ran to the North barge area and donned a work vest. I saw a woman floating toward me unconscious and 2 people on the port paddle. There was about 10 rescuers on the tug and maybe 2-3 bottles. ^{SAB} passengers voluntarily lined the stiff arm and were pulling people in. Nobody that came from the duck had a life jacket. I was doing crowd control to prevent everyone from jumping in. Then I moved to the bow and launched the rescue stage, put on a D ring belt on, and grabbed the recovery basket. About 5 min later James came and said we will try to launch our rescue boat.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of _____ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

We aborted the launch because it was unsafe. I moved back to the bow and saw a dead body pulled up with the basket. A waiter started CPR and a few minutes later they covered her in towels. A waitress came to me and said a lady that survived is looking for a 1, 5, and 7 year old. I had not seen kids that young but I let Jake know. It slowed down after this when more people showed up (EMTs, etc.). Then bodies were removed and we did our drug tests.

Timeline

~~1850~~

1850: Begin boarding 8pm Cruise

1900: we see 2 ducks (1 makes it out of water)

1909: The 2nd sack sinks.

1915: Estimated time I saw the first body of a woman

1925: I launched stage/Basket // Portobars from State Park show

1930: Attempted rescue boat launch

The rest is sort of cloudy for me.



- Nobody was wearing life jackets
- Several came up with questions
- The Duck was upwind from us when it went down
 - This is important because passengers could flow into our stern and barge


~~the~~
- The Duck looked like it was already taking on some water when it went behind the showboat. By the time it came into view again it was in bad shape.

- The sides were down, but I am not sure how they were secured.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I, Garrett Spain, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to _____

, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S. Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Pierce Ronald Steig Date: 20 July 2018
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: _____
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC# _____

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

1900-1915 Attempted to launch the rescue boat in which it was overcome from waves. They held the boarding ramp down to get remaining passengers on the boat when the call came that people were by the stiff arms and the tug. I then went on the tug and started pulling people out of the water two were drowned I performed CPR on both of them with negative results. I then went to the paddle wheels and helped with recovery efforts of the living and dead.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 1 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of _____ pages

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: _____


HOME ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____

POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____

TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Pierce Ronald Steg make the following statement freely and voluntarily to _____

, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S. Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: PAUL TUCKER Date: 7-20-18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC#: [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was in the gally cook when about 6:45 one of the cook told me that a duck went under by the time I got up CO. WORTH WAS PULLING a body out of the water, the WAIT STAFF WAS GIVE CPR to a young kid, and pull out 3, or four more about 6:55 to 7:30 the storm was hitting I was just get everything everybody need to help making see if everybody had what they need

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of _____ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
 SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of July (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of _____ pages

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: PAUL TUCKER DATE: 7/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: _____
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: _____
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: _____ TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: _____
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I PAUL TUCKER, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCGAUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name:

Hunter Wolfe

Date:

07/20/18

Street Address:

[Redacted]

Phone Number:

[Redacted]

City/State/Zip:

MMC#

[Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

My name is Hunter Wolfe, and I am employed as a server on the speedboat. It was a sunny and clear day just shortly before tragedy struck us. As I remember, the storm hit around 15 minutes before boarding time (7:00). A few guests (maybe 30-40) rushed onto the boat at 6:55 to avoid the rain, four sat in my section (Row F, G). I greeted them and got them situated with drinks. Around a little before 7:10 I see my lead, Michael sprinting across the boat saying "call 911!". At this point I run to the windows to the crowd of people and ask what is happening. A guest looks at me and says "A duck boat went under water full of people". I am immediately in shock and begin trying to process everything. →

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of _____ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of July (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of _____ pages

Then, I immediately go into adrenaline wanting to do all I can to help. For the first few minutes I am comforting my guests, but then it gets bad. I see person after person being brought onto the boat. I see people hyperventilating, foaming from the mouth, and screaming wondering if their loved ones are okay or not. A female guest tugs on my shirt asking for towels to dry the floor and wrap around people. I grab Luke (server) and we run and grab six bundles of napkins. Upon return multiple guests come to me and ask if they can help, so they grab napkins and help me. Then I step out and get blasted by insane winds and rain. I remove my work jacket, phone, money, keys, and handed it all to a girl named Gwen to take care of. I then am asked to help pull a body out of the water. It could have been dead. I then am asked by a screaming mother if her child is alive or not, all I could do was hug her and cry. Capt. Jacob then asks me to run and grab the first aid bag with Gwen. I go in an all out sprint, falling on the way. Retrieve the bag and give it to an officer. At this point people were being removed from the boat and we were asked to evacuate. I found out I cut my fingers pretty badly, but didn't even notice due to adrenaline. This experience was hell.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Hunter Galle DATE: 07/20/18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Shoreback
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Server TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 2 1/2 months
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Hunter Galle, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to CO
_____, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: _____



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Christopher Womack Date: 7-20-14
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] IMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

See attachment

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of ___ page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 14 (day) of 7 (month), 2014 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of ___ pages

I am Christopher Womack (senior deckhand Showboat Branson Bell) and this is my statement of July 20, 2018 about the events of July 19, 2018 and my actions in rescue efforts.

I was in the crew room when a call came over the radio that they needed propulsion and someone in the pilot house to move the boat back. Winds had reached 70's mph and had pushed the boat ahead so that the boarding ramp was up against the railing.

When I got to the pilot house Corbin Hudson had been manning the pilothouse and had been calling out wind speed. Cory West called over the radio that propulsion was up. I took control of propulsion and Capt. Jacob Stroud (our tug captain for the day) came into the pilot house. I informed him that propulsion was up but not tested. He headed out to the wing station and I head down to the boarding door.

Jacob said he was full astern on the paddles but the boat was not moving. When I arrived at boarding ramp, Jacob asked that Cory stand by in the engine room because he was putting a lot of strain on the engines. The ramp was pinned against the rail under a hinge so it could not move. The boat moved back just enough to move the ramp. It was lifted out of the way. Jacob called all stop. We began securing connection (water and sewage).

Then came the call that the Duck had gone under and people were in the water. I ran to the rescue boat to launch it. It was me, Cory West and Kevin Lamb at the rescue boat. As the boat hit the water a wave hit it and filled it with water. It started to go down by the stern. I yelled that we could not use the rescue boat and began pulling the boat out of the water. The high winds had pushed the boat under the showboat so as I pulled it out it got pinned under the boat but was out of the water. While was pulling out the boat Kevin and Cory had left.

I headed to the north side of the barge were I found guest and crew running around trying to find people in the water. Directly off the north end of barge was a person floating face down in the water. I ran to get life rings but it was gone (someone had already threw it.) when I went back to the north end I saw people hanging on to the paddle wheels. Wait staff and galley crew were beginning to bring life vest out I grab a few and tried to hand them to people in the water. No one would take them. Passengers were trying to hold the paddle wheel still as the waves were rocking them back and forth. A passenger climbed down into the paddle wheels and pulled the 4 out of the port wheel 2 were children. While holding the wheel still the climbed it like a ladder.

Jenna Stroggins came and told me that someone was on the starboard paddle wheel. I grabbed a life vest to hand to her but could not reach her. Jenna put on a life vest and climbed down to the lady. The group that had been at the port wheel had moved to the starboard wheel to hold it in place. I had tied the wheel in place earlier with a stern line to keep it in place. Jenna said the lady could not move. It was decided to roll the paddle

wheel since she was laying on the board of the wheel. I saw Kevin was helping hold the wheel. I told everyone to hold the wheel while I undid the rope. Once it was undone we (me, Kevin and Guest) rolled the wheel to bring her up and someone helped her onto the fantail.

A call came over the radio that there were people along the side of the boat and that they wanted the rescue boat launched. I and Kevin showed up at the rescue boat as well as Jacob Stroud and Cory. We worked on getting the rescue boat out from under the boat and then began draining the boat. This took a long time 10 to 15 min. Once cleared of water the boat was put back in the water and Cory and Kevin got in the rescue boat. After several attempts the boat started and they were on their way. Sometime during this time Garrett Spain arrived at the rescue boat I sent him to the bow because they were recovering people from the stage on the bow.

At this point I was told to get account of all marine crew. After verifying all 9 marine crew present and accounted for I informed Jacob and gave him a list of names.

Christopher Womack

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Christopher Womack DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: S1313
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Mate (Senior Deckhand) TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 1015 - 2345
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Christopher Womack, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
USCGAUX, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Kevin Lamb Date: 7-20-2018
Street Address: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted]

Apt. 108

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

At 18:50 We started boarding. I was standing at the port side boarding doors counting heads. At about 19:10 high violent winds hit the area and every one on the ramp and bridge rushed to the boat. I opened the port side doors to left every one in. Just after that the boat shifted forward and the 2 chains on the forward ramp snapped off. I called over the radio we were going to lose our ramp. Eventually Jake was on the wing station and backed the boat enough to make room to raise the ramp. After the ramp was raised I was told to go to Starboard side to report on a boat in trouble. I got to Starboard bow and saw one duck approaching our stern. It was dragging its stern, it was bobbing in and out of the water. It disappeared behind our

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 5 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of 7 (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of 5 pages

~~STAFF~~

I lost ~~the~~ sight of it behind our stern and was hoping it would make it to the duct ramp. I heard James over the radio say "Don't launch the rescue boat." It was chaotic and windy so radio communication was not clear. Chris and Corey only heard "launch the rescue boat." We lowered the boat but the waves caused it to sink immediately. Chris said "Rescue boat is a no go." Then someone said for us to rush to the stern. This must have been approx. 19:30. I arrived at the north end of the barge and dozens of employees and guests were on the stiff arm tug boat and barge. I grabbed a work vest and Chris and I crossed over to the stern looking for people in the water. Several employees on 3rd deck railing pointed out a lady holding on to the bottom of the Stb. wheel. I climbed to the side of the wheel and held it to keep it from moving because the waves were shifting it dragging her under water. Chris handed me a PFD. I unraveled the strap and lowered it down to her. I saw she had no PFD but was still holding on to her purse. She grabbed the PFD I gave her and attempted to put it on. A wave knocked it out of her hand. —

②

I was still holding on to the inside of the Strb. wheel trying to brace it and Chris was ~~to~~ on the cat walk between the boat and Strb. wheel then I lost sight of him. I held the wheel for several min.

I yelled for more help and called on the radio for help but I think my radio had water in it and wasn't working because it was pouring down rain. I decided to run to the front side of the Strb. wheel to climb on it to try and spin the wheel and raise her out of the water. After another min. or 2. some guests appeared at the wheel next to me. One guest said the lady looked to be fading fast so I asked them to help me climb on the wheel to raise her out of the water. We were able to spin the wheel a little but then it stopped. I didn't know at the time Chris had tied that wheel down. A couple more min passed and more guests and employees showed up to help. At that time I saw Chris again and he was untying the Strb. wheel and said we should be able to spin it now.

We were able to spin the wheel enough to raise the lady high enough until people at the stern were able to get to her.

3

once she appeared to be safe Chris told me to head to the rescue boat. At this point the storm had calmed enough that we were able to launch the rescue boat after draining it. Cory and I drove all around the boat then north, then south of the dock looking for bodies, picking up PFDs and personal items. We found no bodies. We loaded several PFDs some personal items including a purse and a wallet then came back to the boat.

End

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Kevin Lamb DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: white river landing Showboat
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: peck hand TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 2 years
TIME IN GRADE: _____

I Kevin Lamb, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to USCG
_____, who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Cory W. West Date: 07/20/2018
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

[Large empty rectangular box for statement content]

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 3 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted signature]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this (day) of (month), (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of pages

(1)
NAME: Cory Wayne West

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PHONE: [REDACTED]

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

LAST 4 SSN: [REDACTED]

POSITION: Senior Deckhand / Engine tech

On evening of 07/19/2018 I was on duty on Showboat Branson Belle as engineer. Just after we began boarding at 1900, a storm we were anticipating blew in. This was approx 910. As the storm came in, I was on main deck starboard looking outside. I witnessed a Duck boat, brown in color, struggling with the wind approaching our stern. People on board the Duck were standing and moving. I assumed they were being instructed to don PFDs at that time, I did not witness anyone retrieve or don a PFD as the brown Duck left my view, heading east past our stern towards the ramp. I looked south and saw another duck boat, white in color, near the island with its bow pointed into the wind.

At this point, a crewmember of the Belle stationed in our pilot house came across the radio telling our captain we had sustained 56-58 mph winds. Just after that radio broadcast, another member of marine crew announced on radio our boarding ramp had snapped chains and was in danger of breaking off due to the wind causing the Belle to shift in her moorings. Our tug captain immediately called on me to bring up propulsion. I made haste to our pumproom and

(2)

brought up our propulsion system. The tug Captain, Jacob Stroud, requested that I stay on location in the pumproom. Capt. Stroud worked to maintain our vessel's position on the dock, allowing crew to pull the boarding ramp. ~~As the~~ As Capt. Stroud finished with propulsion, a radio call for marine crew was made asking us to give aid to a duck boat off our stern. The on duty Captain of our vessel, Capt James Plybon, responded that we were unable to help due to severe weather conditions. Immediately after his response, the person asking for our help (~~on our~~ ^{staff member}) stated the duck boat was beginning to go under.

I ran out of the pumproom and headed to our starboard side to launch our rescue boat. Chris Womack and Kevin Lamb were both there to launch the rescue boat. Due to the severe weather and waves, we were unable to launch the boat.

I ran to our tug boat and began pulling people out of the water. I pulled a girl out and her father helped her off the tug. I pulled two more people out of the water, one of which was unresponsive. I observed NO passengers of the duck boat wearing a flotation device.

I went to ~~the~~ the fantail of the Belle to continue to help, but at that point, no other victims could be seen in the water. Staff from the Belle were helping and trying to throw PFDs into the water.

I went to rescue boat to drain it of water. Chris Womack and Kevin Lamb helped. We launched our rescue boat to search for more survivors and victims. Kevin Lamb

(3)

was in rescue boat as bowman. We went between the Belle and the barge searching from south to north.

The storm had passed by this time. As we came to the stern of the Belle, we were notified a diver was already in the water under the stern of the Belle. I drove us away and collected PFDs and personal items in the water just north of our tug. We notified Capt. James Plybon that we were heading south towards the marina to search.

We found seats from the duck in the lake directly west of the ~~the~~ state park marina, along with ~~some~~ some personal effects of victims. All of the PFDs from the Belle and the one PFD from the duck we recovered were found in the cove where the duck went down.

While I was on the tug pulling people from the water, Stacy Pierce ~~at~~ a marine crew member, was performing CPR on one victim I helped retrieve from the water.

Elisiah Romero, another marine crew member, helped retrieve passengers of the duck from the water.

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Cory W. West DATE: 07/20/2018 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Branson Belle
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # _____ PORT OF ISSUE: _____ ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Senior Deckhand/Engine tech TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 7 yrs
TIME IN GRADE: 5 yrs

I Cory West, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: James Plybon Date: 7-20-18
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

On 7-19-18 at 1855, I witnessed a Duck struggling to navigate in stormy and choppy water. I began closely observing the vessel from the starboard side. As the vessel went to our stern, I lost sight of it. I was making my way to a better viewing area, I then heard over the radio that the vessel sunk and people in the water. At that point 1908 I gave the order to begin rescue operations, we were unable to launch rescue vessel due to weather. We began deploying PFD's life rings and dropped lines to hoist people up. We had men on all spots on the vessel. When I was able to break away and make my way to call USCG. That took place at 1956.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 1 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted Signature] DCDR DT
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER # [Redacted]

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 20 (day) of 7 (month), 2018 (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: James Plybon DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: SRB
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # [REDACTED] PORT OF ISSUE: WRI ISSUE DATE: _____
POSITION ONBOARD: Captain TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 7 years
TIME IN GRADE: Captain/ops Mgr 5

I, James Plybon, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Jacob Stroud Date: 7-20-18
Street Address: [Redacted] Phone Number: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] MMC# [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

Large empty rectangular box for the witness statement.

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 2 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Redacted signature line]

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[Redacted signature line]

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this ____ (day) of ____ (month), ____ (year)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of ____ pages

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME: Jacob Stroud DATE: 7-20-18 LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: SBB/Atcrom
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]
USCG LICENSE/DOCUMENT # [REDACTED] PORT OF ISSUE: Memphis ISSUE DATE: 10-APR-2017
POSITION ONBOARD: Captain TIME ONBOARD THIS VESSEL: 10 YRS
TIME IN GRADE: 4 YRS

I, Jacob Stroud, make the following statement freely and voluntarily to CSC2
[REDACTED], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
Coast Guard, knowing that this statement may be used in evidence.

Witness Signature: [REDACTED] DCPR 05
[REDACTED]

On 7/19/18 I was tug captain on the showboat Branson Belle. We had been tracking several severe thunderstorms approaching us from the northwest as of 1745 all systems had dissipated before they approached our location. @1830 there was another system approaching that had been reported with up to 70 mph at that time the water was relatively calm with a light wind. As we began boarding passengers @1850 for the 20:00 Cruise I was closely watching the weather as it approached us @19:00 hrs. I saw the storm approaching with severe winds called to the wheel house of the SBB (showboat Branson belle) the wheel house watch reported 58 mph winds. I made an announcement letting passengers know a severe storm system was rapidly approaching we was stopping boarding and would begin when the storm was over. Captain James Plybon was master on the vessel and asked me to go down to the vessel as he was speaking with weather spotters. As I came down from the ticket area I noticed that there was 2 duwks on the water. Struggling in the wind but were making head way as I came across our dock I saw that the vessel had been pushed FWD several feet and was in danger of ripping off our passenger boarding ramp and was straining our mooring lines. I called the Engineer on duty Cory west told him to immediately bring up propulsion. I proceeded to the wheel house. When I arrived Senior deckhand Chris Womack and wheel house watch Corbin Hudson had taken control of propulsion. I immediately went to the port wing station and began backing on both paddle wheels. Slowly bringing them up to full throttle I asked the engineer to stay in pump room as I was using a lot of propulsion. I had both duwks call on marine VHF radio channel 13 stating they were trying to exit the lake and asked my intentions. I informed them that I was not getting under way just trying to fight the wind. A radio call on our house uhf radio came across stating that a duck was in trouble. James Plybon responded that at the point there was little that we could do for them. by this time the deck crew was able to get the passenger boarding ramp out of danger and I slowed the paddle wheels to detent to let the lines take the weight of the boat. At this time it was reported that the duck had begun to go down off of our starboard stern. Seconds later it was reported that there were people in the water and they were being blown towards us. I immediately went all stop on propulsion. Several crew members had come to 4th deck to retrieve PFDS but at that time it was unsafe to open the lockers on 4th deck and instructed them to second deck bow where our primary PFD locker is and holds the most quantity. I was also instructed that there were survivors and bodies floating down starboard side of the vessel. I immediately went to the starboard wing station. Saw one survivor and one body at our starboard beam approx. 100 feet our being blown south as there were several boaters on the water making head way I began to blow the whistle and waving them down and pointing into the water. I was unsuccessful in getting their attention as they turned away and proceeded south. I went back into the wheel house and immediately called James Plybon and informed him of the people on starboard side. I heard James call on the house radio to launch our rescue boat but as the winds were still in excess of 50 mph the deck crew were unsuccessful. I also notified Tim stow our general manager of the situation and that call was placed 2 19:11 at this time southern stone county fire dept. was hailing the SBB on marine VHF channel 16. I tried to respond but they were unable to hear my response. They called multiple times and I was unsuccessful at getting a response from this at this point I did an all call to any vessel on the water that there were people in the water and needed rescue I did not get a response. I called southern stone county non-emergency line and gave them my cellphone number. By this time the storm system had started to pass and winds were below 30 mph James called me for a wind report and I stated so. At this time he asked to abandon the wheel house and proceed down below I asked where I was needed and

he responded that we needed to re attempt to launch our rescue boat as I came down stairs I proceeded to main deck bow where deckhand Garrett Spain was attempting to rescue people with a stokes basket from the gangway on the bow. As all survivors were blown to far away to reach I called him over to the rescue boat to reattempt to launch at this point I was met by several crew members and Cory west and a deck hand stated that they would go out in the rescue boat. I proceeded to the tug boat with the intention of getting it underway I proceeded through main deck theater directing staff and answering as many questions as I could while continuing towards the tug. As I approached row N on port side I noticed the captain of the Duwk sitting on the floor he appeared to be in shock but otherwise fine so I continued but as I arrived at the tug It was covered in survivors and bodies. At this time several rescue boats began approaching and I was notified that there were survivors and bodies inside of the paddle wheels so I went onto the fantail of the sbb as I boarded the vessel they were pulling a survivor off of the fantail in a stokes basket and I assisted with the transfer from the fantail to the dock and notice there was a body inside of the port paddle wheel with the assistance of several foods team members we got the attention of a rescue boat and manually tuned the port paddle wheel pushing the body out and toward rescuers. I was notified that a second body had been washed fwd between boat in dock and herd radio traffic of it being recovered at the bow. At this time everyone evacuated the fan tail and I notified Captain James that the fantail was clear. When I came off of the fan tail emergency personnel began evacuating all duwk survivors land side. I was notified that all non-essential personnel need to leave the vessel notified the heads of departments. Shortly after we had a large group of employees on the dock blocking traffic and I sent them to crews nest landside. I was asked by adam buxton to make sure all of our employees were accounted for and set that in motion and was notified several mins later that all team members were accounted for. After that the marine crew began collecting all emergency equipment and began taking stock of our PFDS, Life rings, and work vest. We assited emergency personeel in removal of bodies onto rescue boats to be transported landside and then began was told that we were going to be drug tested and waited for that. After crew was all tested we stowed things for the night was told to go home and come back following day.


Captain Jacob Stroud

MMC 



U.S. COAST GUARD WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Witness Name: Corbin S. Hudson Date: 7-20-18
 Street Address: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
 City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] MMC#: [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

I was running in the Pilothouse, we started boarding for the 8 o'clock cruise. At about 1910 the storm hit. Jacob Stroud came to the PH at 1930 to get our propulsion up and use thruster to thrust the boat up against the dock. Jacob sent me down to help the crew at 1940. I went down to main deck and was told that someone was drowning off our starboard stern. I arrived at the starboard aft doors and met Capt. James there. He got the doors unlocked and open and server David Griffin then said a lady was drowning out there. He asked me for PFD's so I ran up to 2nd deck PFD locker and grabbed about 4. I ran back down to the doors where David promptly donned one and suggested we jump in and help the woman. I hesitated and turned to Capt. James to ask for permission to jump over. He hesitated as well but eventually gave us the go-ahead and we jumped. This was about 1950. Me and David struck out for the woman but got →

OATH/SIGNATURE: I have read my statement consisting of 2 page(s) and hereby swear or affirm the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]
 SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER.

Subscribed and sworn to me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this _____ (day) of _____ (month), _____ (year)

 SIGNATURE OF PERSON ADMINISTERING OATH

Page 1 of _____ pages

separated. I reached the woman and found her deceased. I stayed out in the water for around 15-20 minutes until we were picked up by boats from the State Park Marina. We found one more body on our way back and then beached by the North Duck Ramp. We left the deceased with the personnel by the Duck Ramp and reported to the boat for further instructions. This was around 2000-2020. All survivors had been rescued at this point and aid was being given. Our crew then went about securing safety equipment and helping elsewhere however we were told.

Timeline;

1850 Started boarding

1910 Storm hit

1915 Ceased boarding, started securing boat

1920 Heard radio traffic of Duck boat having trouble negotiating the storm

1930 Capt. Stroud arrived and operated thrusters to secure boat.

1935 Got report that duck boat was sinking

1940 Capt. Jacob sent me down to help.

1945 Arrived at starboard aft doors.

1950 Jumped off boat.

1955-2020 approx. In water, picked up, returned to boat.

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[Signature], who has identified himself to me as an Investigating Officer of the U. S.
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