

Texas Firefighter Wellness Newsletter

Summer 2018

Hero in the Sky



Citations: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/04/18/southwest-airlines-engine-failure-investigation/527498002/> & <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/firefighter-board-fatal-southwest-flight-speaks-trying-save-woman-n867486>

Although airplanes tend to be one of the safest possible modes of travel, things unfortunately do go wrong on rare occasions.

April 20, 2018 was one of those rare occasions. There were major complications due to engine malfunctions on a Southwest Airlines flight from New York to Dallas. Some of the plane windows blew out as a result. Hero and firefighter, Andrew Needum, from Celina, TX, knew that it was his duty to go and assist the people on the plane. He rushed to the back to begin aiding others in putting on oxygen masks and safety vests.

Shortly after, he heard screams on the back of the plane and immediately "felt moved to act." A woman, Jennifer Riordan, was hanging out of one of the windows that had blown out.

Riordan has been identified as a mother of two and banking executive from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Needum helped to pull Riordan back into the plane, and retired nurse and passenger, Peggy Phillips, began to perform CPR on Riordan, in attempt to stabilize her despite her severe injuries.

Unfortunately, Riordan passed away shortly after, due to the injuries she sustained. The two emergency responders, Needum and Phillips, were devastated. Riordan's husband and 2 kids, as well as the rest of her community, are deeply affected by her loss.

Needum will go down in history as a true hero for putting his own life at risk while pulling Riordan back onto the plane. Without his help and outstanding bravery, the injuries of his fellow passengers could have been far more severe.

Needum describes that the pilot of the plane, Tammie Jo Shults, should be hailed as an additional hero for succeeding to safely land the plane despite the

precarious conditions.

Thankfully, Shults successfully made an emergency landing in Philadelphia, PA. Without her skillful efforts, the entire plane full of passengers would have never of made it home that night.

Going forward, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is buckling down on inspections for all engine fan blades. According to investigators, one of the blades broke off in the middle of the flight, which is what caused the domino effect of the many issues that followed. Hopefully, with the new protocols for inspections implemented, another catastrophe like this one can be avoided.

Sources:
<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/04/19/firefighter-nurse-on-southwest-flight-felt-moved-to-act.html>
<https://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-heroes/articles/380461018-Southwest-flight-hero-firefighter-speaks-out/>
<http://cbs12.com/news/local/heroes-who-rescued-southwest-passenger>

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4th of July Word Search!

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L S N O I T A N N D A D A M S  
I E L S I D M F O S W E Z T A  
B I R C N F H N I G F T J Y R  
E N H L D I G O T O R I M T I  
R O T O E R J I A D E N Q I R  
T L R C P E E T R T E U E L E  
Y O U U E W F U A O D V E A E  
E C O N N O F L L H O X C U T  
E R F E D R E O C A M I C Q B  
E I I E E K R V E Q R E N E E  
E G O T N S S E D E B J L E N  
A H T R C P O R M R K E I O S  
E T I I E D N A A Y Y L U J T  
O S N H T E N B N P A R A D E  
S T A T E S B C O N G R E S S
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Try and find all 18 of the hidden words, and remember the words can be written backwards or forwards, going up or down, and diagonally!

Source: puzzles-to-print.com

ADAMS
JEFFERSON
RIGHTS
AMERICA
JULY
STATES

BARBECUE
LIBERTY
THIRTEEN
CONGRESS
NATION
UNITED

DECLARATION
PARADE
EQUALITY
REVOLUTION
FIREWORKS
RIGHTS

What's New at the WRI

Amayah Brown

Scott and White Undergraduate Research Program Intern

Amayah joined the Warriors Research Institute team in June 2018. She is an undergraduate student at Baylor University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry on the pre-medical track. So far as an undergraduate, Amayah has dedicated a year to research in the field of laparoscopy. While conducting research here at the WRI, Amayah desires to get a better look at how mental health plays a role in the lives of veterans and emergency responders.

Amayah plans on attending medical school in hopes of becoming a physician. In her free time, she enjoys jigsaw puzzles, working out, traveling, and cooking.

Bailey Hollier

BEAR Intern

Bailey joined the Warriors Research Institute team in June 2018. She is a senior, undergraduate student at Baylor University. At Baylor, she studies psychology and competes for the acrobatics and tumbling team. After graduating, she hopes to work towards obtaining her Ed.S. degree and becoming a school psychologist. Bailey was born and raised in Flower Mound, Texas.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing the piano and guitar, practicing for her sport, and spending time with her loved ones.

Moving? Changing your phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update our information.

Contact Jordan Strack at:

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Don't forget that you can contact us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!