

Fishing vessel sinks off Cape May, leaving two dead, four missing

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pronounced dead by the Atlantic City medical examiner.

After receiving the signal, the Coast Guard dispatched two MH-65C Dolphin helicopters from Air Station Atlantic City, an MH-60J Jayhawk helicopter and HC-130J Hercules air crews from Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., and the Coast Guard Cutters Dependable and Finback from Cape May. The Coast Guard began searching an area 225 square nautical miles before the crew of one of the Dolphin helicopters located the source of the beacon signal and an unmanned life raft. Three crewmembers were located in the immediate area and the helicopter crew hoisted them out of the water and transported them to emergency medical personnel at the air station.

Lt. Bruce Kimmell was flying one of the Dolphin helicopters called in on the search and rescue mission. He and another crew were flying training missions at Barnegat when they received

the call to return to Air Station Atlantic City to refuel and pick up rescue swimmers. According to Kimmell the helicopters got on the scene around 8:30 a.m. when the three fishermen were found.

"We went to the scene and found a pretty good size amount of debris, a large oil sheen, the life raft, life boards and other items from the vessel," Kimmell said.

Kimmell said the seas were high at 12 to 15 foot swells. The life raft, spotted at the top of a swell, was invisible at the bottom of a swell, Kimmell said.

"The weather was really clear, but there were some white caps, which made it difficult to search," he said.

Kimmell said they were flying about 150 feet above the water looking for the red survival "Gumby" suits.

Kimmell said the weather conditions actually improved over the nearly eight hours he was in the air searching. He and his crew returned to Atlantic City around 6 p.m. Tuesday.

When located, Ariese was

reported to be alive and the others were unresponsive, one with vital signs and the other without vital signs. Ariese told rescue personnel all seven crew members had donned survival suits before the vessel sank.

Smith said it was his understanding that the crew was asleep when the boat capsized. He said he could only speculate about what caused the boat to turn over, but he thinks the scallop dredge got caught on a wreck. He said the deck was also probably loaded with scallops.

"I don't know that, but I know the business, and that's probably what it was," Smith said.

Smith said he didn't believe sea conditions were a problem, saying the Lady Mary was the best sea boat they had.

Early reports said all seven crew members had gotten into their survival suits, but Smith said it was his understanding Royal had not.

"That's probably why Tim's gone - he was probably trying to help him," Smith said.

Smith said his sons were



Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Seaman Daniel Kehlenbach. The fishing vessel Lady Mary sits moored in Cape May Harbor May 12, 2004. The boat sank 75 miles off Cape May Tuesday. One of the seven-member crew was rescued alive.

good fishermen and in 40 years of fishing he never considered the job dangerous.

"You have accidents, that's the most I can say," he said.

Smith's brother Doug Smith, a former pro-football player with the former

Houston Oilers, said ocean fishing was dangerous work, but his father had provided for 14 children by fishing.

"I'm considering quitting what I am doing now and going back to it. If he (Fuzzy) needs my help I'm there for

him," he said.

Doug Smith is currently teaching in an alternative education program for children with behavioral problems.

He said he had just spoken to his brother and nephews before they went out on their first fishing trip of the year.

Fuzzy Smith said he had never put all his family members on the same boat, but he figured they would all get a better and quicker payday if they were all working together.

"I came up with the hair brained idea of putting the whole family on one boat ... but it didn't work," he said, turning away from reporters.

Smith said he would probably return to fishing as soon as they could put the incident behind them.

As of Wednesday the Coast Guard was still conducting a search for Bernie Smith, Credle, Reyes and Torres, covering the 225 square nautical mile zone using the C-130 aircraft and the Cutter Dependable.

Nan LaCorte honored with commissioned work

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deserves the recognition," Lower Cape May Regional band teacher John Drechen said.

Drechen said he met LaCorte in the summer of 1990 when he started playing in the Atlantic Brass Band with her.

"I didn't get to know her on the job until August 1990," he said. "We got to be real close friends. We drove to rehearsals together. Then in 1991 we started the Congress Street Brass Band."

Named the official band of Cape May, the group got its name because they started rehearsing at the VFW on Congress Street. The band has a number of regular

engagements, including playing in Cape May every July 4, playing in the Baby Parade, and playing a Christmas concert at Our Lady Star of the Sea School.

Drechen said they actually wanted the band to be separate from the school, but as the band grew it made more sense to rehearse at the school.

"The school had the equipment and we could keep the music safe, and the board gave us permission to use the facilities. It's actually listed with the adult continuing education program," he said.

Drechen said any experienced brass musicians could join the community band.

But before being a brass band member, Drechen said

LaCorte was a great teacher. He said all the instrumental teachers in the elementary and regional school districts are close friends, and between them all they want to make sure they give the best music education to the kids.

Drechen said he learned much of what he knows about being a teacher from LaCorte. "She taught me a whole lot of stuff about my job," he said.

Drechen said LaCorte went to Lebanon Valley College and was hired by the district in 1976. Besides being one of the finest trumpet players he knows, LaCorte learned to play all the band instruments, as music teachers in New Jersey do.

"But we just wouldn't have the program we do without her," Drechen said. "Being

fresh out of college I went (to Teitelman) and learned a lot from her, which I incorporated into my classes."

Drechen knew LaCorte as a mentor, colleague and friend. Sandy Garrison-Maund knew LaCorte as her teacher, and later as friend and fellow band member.

Now a learning disabilities teacher consultant, Garrison-Maund was a clarinet player and now plays a tuba in the Congress Street Brass Band. LaCorte was her teacher from 1979 to 1981.

"I almost went into music education because of her," Garrison-Maund said. "She was a vibrant person who would push us to get better and better."

Moreover, she said LaCorte encouraged her students to try new things, letting her

take home instruments such as the oboe and bassoon.

"She let us play anything," Garrison-Maund said.

LaCorte also had her students playing in small ensembles, jazz band, and she would take them to see The All Jersey band.

"She would take a few of us to see a community band in Millville just because we loved to play," Garrison-Maund said.

Garrison-Maund also said LaCorte was an incredible musician. She was impressed enough to get LaCorte to play with a five piece brass ensemble at her wedding.

She said LaCorte coaxed her to join the community band because they needed percussionists. Eventually she got her horn - an E-flat tuba.

While Garrison-Maund credits LaCorte with developing a deeper appreciation for music, Drechen credits LaCorte with not only building the instrumental music program in the school system

but giving it visibility - taking the kids out of the school, playing in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in New York, playing in community parades, and even playing on the Battleship New Jersey.

For all this they commissioned a piece of music written by Stephen Bulla, chief arranger to the U.S. Marine Band and White House Orchestra.

"What better way to commemorate a teacher's work than to have a (musical) work that other schools could use to teach music," Drechen said.

Garrison-Maund said she was given the opportunity to look at the commissioned piece and was impressed with Bulla's composition.

"The piece looks nice, and it's a great honor to her ... and she deserves it," Garrison-Maund said.

The world premier of the piece, titled "Capricioso," will be on Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at Lower Cape May Regional High School.



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