

## Statement from Andrew Needum

I greatly appreciate the outpouring of kindness and support extended to me from around the country. During Tuesday's events, I did not lose my life, nor did I land that plane. To me, that's where our hearts and our focus should be—with those who did. I simply did what I have been trained to do and what I felt called to do in that moment.

Right now, the NTSB and the FAA are conducting an ongoing investigation. As a firefighter—someone regularly involved in investigations—I understand the necessity of reserving details of my experience for their tedious efforts.

Regarding my response, I noticed an emergency situation close by and immediately responded as my training and my faith led me to do.

I have also been overwhelmed to see the love and support that people from around the world are showing to the victim's family. The details of her tragic loss are overshadowed by the powerful testimony of her beautiful life. Regarding the accident, be assured that every attempt was made to give her the best care possible in the air and on the ground. My family joins countless others who extend our heartfelt sorrow and prayers to her family as they grieve.

Finally, the people of Southwest Airlines have handled this tragedy matchlessly. From the tender care they provided the passengers and crew on the ground in Philadelphia, to the words of comfort and hope they extended while we all awaited our next steps, through the painstaking work of getting us all back to our homes comfortably and quickly, I simply don't know how it could have been handled any better.

This experience has deepened and affirmed what I have always believed—that life is precious and fragile. The Scripture says that our days are numbered and that this world is not our home. When you come as close to eternity as we all did in that plane—and our fellow passenger who stepped into eternity—you walk away knowing that no day, no hour, or no minute can ever be taken for granted.

Thank you, again, for reaching out to my family and me.

Andrew Needum  
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