

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

The purpose of this statement is intended solely for use in determining the facts, conditions and circumstances, and the probable cause of the subject accident.

Date 9/13/17

I. Place of accident Danbury Airport DXR Date July 30, 2017 Hour 1025

II. Aircraft N612DF FAA Certificate No. N/A

III. What is your name Edward Friedman Age 68

IV. Address [REDACTED]

V. Occupation Lawyer By whom employed Novick Edelstein, et al.

VI. Where were you at the time of the accident Front right passenger seat

VII. Tell in your own words what you saw or heard before and at the time the accident occurred.

Mark Stern (friend and pilot) had invited me to take a brief airplane ride at about 11:00 a.m. on July 30, 2017 taking off from Danbury Airport. The weather that morning was sunny and clear. I met Mark and the other passenger whose name I recently learned is Stuart Longman at 11:00 a.m. at the airport office and we proceeded to the airplane which I believe was rented by Mr. Stern. Upon arriving at the airplane, I was told to get into the front right passenger seat. "Stu" (the other passenger) elected to sit in the back. I remember Mark starting the plane and while he was seated in the pilot's left front seat, he had a checklist which I assumed was part of his pre-flight check. The next thing I remember was being sutured by Dr. Julia Toto at about 3:00 p.m. that day at Danbury Hospital.

Print Name - Edward Friedman

[REDACTED]

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

The purpose of this statement is intended solely for use in determining the facts, conditions and circumstances, and the probable cause of the subject accident.

Date September 1, 2017

I. Place of accident Danbury Airport DXR Date July 30, 2017 Hour 1025

II. Aircraft N612DF FAA Certificate No. N/A

III. What is your name Stuart Longman Age 66

IV. Address [REDACTED]

V. Occupation Solar Development By whom employed Seaboard Solar

VI. Where were you at the time of the accident In the backseat

VII. Tell in your own words what you saw or heard before and at the time the accident occurred.

I arrived at the airport at 10 AM. Mark Stern, the pilot, had already pre-flighted the airplane. I got in the back. Mark and his friend, Ed Friedman, got in the front. We taxied to Runway 26. Mark did the runup at the hold line. When we were cleared for takeoff Mark taxied to the active and applied what sounded like full power. I didn't see from where I was sitting any of the instruments or controls as the seats were blocking my view. After a short roll the plane took off. It seemed to me from what I could see out the side window that we weren't gaining altitude normally. Less than a minute after takeoff Mark said "We're going in." The plane appeared from where I was sitting to hit very close to (or into) the ground, rather than flying into trees or high tree branches. The plane seemed to me to fly straight in. I mention this because when I went to see the plane the next day when I was released from the hospital, it was facing a different direction as though it had spun after impact but I didn't sense any spin. The plane may have been moved later. After impact both Mark and Ed Friedman were knocked out. I couldn't see much as I was pinned into the backseat by the seatbelt, which I couldn't dislodge. Mark was breathing wetly and I tried to lift his seatbelt so it didn't constrict him until help came. Ed Friedman's door had popped open and he was leaning head down out of the door, held in by his seatbelt. As I couldn't move, I waited until paramedics came.

Print Name Stuart Longman