

Lauren Stratton
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: 10/23/2024

Subject: ERA25LA019 Passenger Interview

Contact: Barbara Johnson, passenger

Ms. Barbara Johnson was interviewed by phone by Lauren Stratton on October 23, 2024, at 3:50PM about the accident that occurred in Cessna N11519 on October 18, 2024 in Gainesville, GA. The following is a summary of that conversation:

Ms. Johnson described that she was riding in the passenger seat while Mr. Kapetanakos was in the pilot seat. She explained that the events began shortly after Mr. Kapetanakos had set the airplane up for landing, had his hand on the yoke, and had made a call on the radio to the airport explaining their intention to land. She remembered that the airplane was already lined up with the intended landing runway.

After a while she noticed that Mr. Kapetanakos was no longer making any corrections with the yoke and when she looked over, he seemed unresponsive. She described calling out to him over the headset and shaking him but received no response. It was at this point that she knew "something was wrong with him" and she was going to have to land the plane. She said she was able to find the button to transmit on the radio and said "emergency, emergency" one time, and while she heard responses of others trying to help, she couldn't understand what they were saying and focused on landing the plane.

She remembered looking out the window and noticing that they had missed the runway and were flying low. She grabbed the yoke on the passenger's side and removed Mr. Kapetanakos's hand from the pilot's side yoke so that she could take

control of the airplane. Realizing they were low, she pulled back on the yoke to get the airplane higher and circled around to try and land again.

She described while circling to the right, she looked down and saw what she thought was a big "27" on the runway below her. She began pushing knobs to attempt to figure out how to change the throttle and get the plane down. At that point she remembered just "aiming at the runway" knowing she needed to get the plane on the ground. She pushed the yoke forward to get the airplane to descend.

She found the rest of the experience difficult to recollect but recounted "I just landed". She remembered the plane "rolling for a bit" and then stopping. She remembered thinking "I'm ok, Charles is ok" and before she could try and get out of the plane there were bystanders there to help pull her and Mr. Kapetanacos from the airplane.

She explained that they got them both out of the plane and immediately began CPR on Mr. Kapetanacos who was still unresponsive. She suffered some bruising but was otherwise uninjured.

-End of Conversation-