

**Statement from the families of Lindsey Stewart and Mark Lennon
July 31, 2013**

Our families are shattered by the horrible accident that took the lives of Lindsey Stewart and Mark Lennon and seriously injured and devastated so many others.

Compounding our agony is the rush, by some, to cast blame on or even malign the victims. While police have issued serious charges against the boat's driver, toxicology results supporting those charges will not be available for days.

Our conversations with some of the survivors of this accident, including Brian Bond, make two things quite clear:

- The passengers on the boat – all mature, respected professionals in their thirties – had consumed very little alcohol and considered themselves sober.
- None of them saw the barge. They did not brace for impact and could not identify what they had hit – even after impact – as they desperately worked to direct the first responders coming to their aid.

We are immensely thankful for the outpouring of love and concern by so many friends, neighbors and even strangers.

So many caring people have asked, "What can I do?"

We will never understand why this happened, but we do seek to understand exactly what happened that horrible night.

To do that, we have a specific request of boaters who have firsthand knowledge of the barges our loved ones struck:

*If you were out on the water, on or before the night of Friday, July 26, and have knowledge of the barges or the accident conditions, please share your information with us by sending an email to darkbarges@gmail.com .
(That's darkbarges with an "s.")*

We remain so grateful to the Rockland County Sheriff's department and all the first responders who searched for and recovered Lindsey and Mark, as well as the medical personnel who came to the aid of their injured friends.

We are devastated by the irreparable damage that has been done to the lives of so many. None of our lives will ever be the same.

Thank you for keeping our families – and the families of all those affected by this accident – in your prayers.

Carol Stewart-Kosik, mother of Lindsey Stewart
Walter Kosik, step-father of Lindsey Stewart
Kevin and Dympna Lennon, parents of Mark Lennon