

1er juin 2018 : journée du souvenir AF 447

Ladies and gentlemen, families, colleagues and friends,

First of all, please allow me to thank Mrs. Elisabeth Pelsez, Inter-ministerial Delegate for victims' support, as well as Mr. Marc Papinutti, Chief of Staff for Mrs. Elisabeth Borne, Minister for Transport, for their presence here today.

In their presence, I would like to express Air France-KLM's gratitude to the French and Brazilian authorities for their unrelenting support through the difficult times we have lived through since 1st June 2009.

I was not part of the Air France-KLM group at the time of the tragedy and did not experience it in the same way as you, but, like many, I remember the long hours of waiting, of hope, and can only imagine your immense pain and grief when it was confirmed the flight had been lost.

The presence of so many of you here today, in such a warm and unified atmosphere despite the passing of time, shows just how well the memory of this tragedy remains intact.

Dear families, this moving commemoration is for me the occasion, on behalf of Air France, to assure you of our continued support, and to express our deepest compassion and solidarity.

As we do every year, on this day of mourning, we once again gather here in front of this memorial at the Père Lachaise cemetery to perpetuate and honour the memory of your relatives, loved ones and our colleagues.

It is with a heavy heart that we will hear the names of your loved ones read out. They will never be forgotten.

We are sharing this 1st June commemoration with the families on the other side of the Atlantic, who are gathered together at the memorial identical to this one, erected by Air France in Rio, on the Three Brothers Hill.

As for the families who were unable to be here today, I know they are with us in their thoughts.

Dear passengers and colleagues of flight AF447, may you remain in the hearts of those you loved forever.