

# B'ville doctor saves woman during Newark-bound flight

**BERNARDSVILLE** – The question that came over the loudspeaker on a Newark-bound airplane on Monday, Oct. 18, wasn't exactly "Is there a doctor in the house?" - but it was close.

Instead, flight attendants, concerned about an elderly female passenger who was having severe difficulty breathing, asked if there was a doctor on board the plane.

There was.

Dr. Thomas S. Ziering, a Randolph Township resident and family physician who has been practicing medicine in Bernardsville for more than 20 years, was returning from a vacation in Florida and answered the call, immediately assessing the 65-year-old woman's condition and beginning emergency intervention.



**THOMAS  
ZIERING**

meds I should carry with me in the event of an emergency," he said.

As it turned out, no medications were kept on board the plane, but Dr. Ziering used a blood pressure cuff, oxygen and a fellow passenger's stethoscope to treat the woman for 45 minutes until the plane landed at Newark Liberty Airport.

Dr. Ziering then worked with a paramedic team to expedite the woman's transfer to a hospital.

"I am happy to say that the pa-

"I've thought of this moment since the day I received my medical license, although I always wondered what

tient called me (Oct. 30) to say she had just been released from the hospital, that my diagnosis was right on and that I had saved her life and actually done a better job than the paramedics in keeping her comfortably breathing," Dr. Ziering said.

Although the woman lives in New York, "she also asked me if she could call me in the future with any questions that she had regarding her breathing problems," he added with a laugh.

Dr. Ziering is the founder and former chair of the Independent Department of Family Medicine at Morristown Medical Center, a former Bernards High School physician and Bedminster School physician.

His Bernardsville office, Family Practice Associates, P.C., is located at 39 Olcott Square.