

EDWARD M. KENNEDY

March 5, 2009

Laura R. Glading
President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
1004 West Eules Boulevard
Eules, Texas 76040

Dear President Glading and Members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants,

I wish very much that I could be with you in person for this ceremony. One of my highest priorities in the United States Senate has always been to improve the lives of working families across the country, and I'm deeply grateful for your recognition for these efforts in this award.

I commend President Glading for your leadership of this great union, and I thank all the hardworking men and women of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants. With skill, kindness, care, and grace, you serve millions of our citizens who fly on American Airlines, and you serve us well, far above and beyond the call of duty. Your work is difficult and often dangerous, and you make great sacrifices. For all that you do so well, I thank you, and I salute you.

Many years ago, I dedicated my life to public service. But in my family, public service has always meant more than just working in government. Public service is about improving the daily lives of working people. It's about fighting for basic fairness -- decent wages, good health care, safe jobs, and a secure retirement.

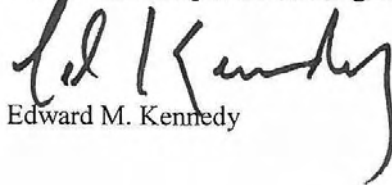
The people of the APFA have always stood with me, shoulder to shoulder, in these battles. We have celebrated many worthwhile victories, and come back strong after every setback. And now we are ready, in this new day for our cause and our country, to meet and master new challenges together.

In the months and years to come, your energy and activism will again be critical to renewing the promise of the American dream and building a strong new middle class. As we work to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, health care reform, and family and medical leave for flight attendants, you will be on the front lines in these all-important battles for workers' rights. Working hand-in-hand, together, we will fight, and we will win.

It's been a great privilege and great honor to work with so many of you through the years, and I look forward very much to the battles still to come. Thank you so much for your indispensable support, and thank you so much for this wonderful award.

With great respect and appreciation,

Your friend and partner in our great cause,



Edward M. Kennedy

