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For Immediate Release
January 7, 2010

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American Airlines Flight Attendants Stand in Solidarity with United Colleagues

APFA Supports Protest at United Airlines American & United Flight Attendants Mired in Contract Negotiations

Eules, Texas – American Airlines Flight Attendants today expressed their strong support for United Airlines Flight Attendants, who are protesting across the country for a fair and just contract.

"We share many issues and concerns with our colleagues at United in our fight for a strong contract," said Laura Glading, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), which represents the 18,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines. "This is not only about improving compensation and working conditions, but raising the living standard for Flights Attendants throughout the industry."

Earlier this decade when American and United Airlines found themselves in financial trouble, Flight Attendants helped bail them out by taking huge concessions. Flight Attendant benefits and pay have continued to shrink while airline executives are taking multimillion-dollar bonuses and salary increases.

APFA has been mired in contract negotiations for more than 21 months while the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO (AFA-CWA), which represents the 15,000 Flight Attendants at United, have been in contract talks since April 2009.

A recent report on the airline industry by Demos, a nonpartisan public policy research organization, found a steep downhill slide in wages, benefits, working conditions, and labor standards throughout the industry over the past 20 years. Flight Attendants were found to have experienced the most serious pay cuts and work-rule changes as well as layoffs.

"Today, we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers at United at protests across the country. Together we can rebuild our profession by negotiating fair contracts at each airline with improvements in pay, health care, retirement and quality of work life," Glading said.

APFA is the nation's largest independent Flight Attendant union representing more than 18,000 American Airlines Flight Attendants. www.apfa.org

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