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CONTACT:

Captain Denis Breslin (APA)
817-302-2350/619-980-8941
Gregg Overman (APA)
817-302-2250/817-312-3901

**ALLIED PILOTS ASSOCIATION ISSUES STATEMENT ON COURT'S DECISION
DENYING MESABA PILOTS' RIGHT TO STRIKE**

'Decision departs from well-established legal precedent and basic concept of fairness'

Fort Worth, Texas (Oct. 24, 2006)—The Allied Pilots Association (APA), collective bargaining agent for the 13,000 pilots of American Airlines (NYSE: AMR), has issued a statement in response to U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Gregory Kishel's Oct. 23 decision denying Mesaba's pilots their right to strike if that carrier's management imposes terms of pay and working conditions.

"Judge Kishel's seriously misguided decision departs from decades of well-established legal precedent and violates the basic concept of fairness. The right to strike is an essential component of collective bargaining, which in turn is one of the fundamental tenets of a free and democratic society.

"APA strongly supports the pilots of Mesaba in appealing the court's decision. We likewise support our fellow professional pilots as they continue to seek a consensual solution to the impasse they have reached with their airline's management. Accordingly, we have communicated to the leadership of the Mesaba master executive council of the Air Line Pilots Association our willingness to help in whatever way we can to bring about a satisfactory resolution to the Mesaba pilots' outrageous predicament. Their struggle is our struggle."

That is the full text of the pilot union's statement.

Founded in 1963, APA is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. There are currently 2,852 American Airlines pilots on furlough. The furloughs began shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Also, several hundred American Airlines pilots are on full-time military leave of absence serving in the armed forces. The union's Web site address is www.alliedpilots.org. American Airlines is the nation's largest passenger carrier.