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**MORE THAN 1,500 ALLIED PILOTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS GATHER AT NINE LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE FOR COMMON CAUSE: ‘WE ARE DETERMINED TO RESTORE OUR PROFESSION’**

Fort Worth, Texas (February 1, 2008)—The Allied Pilots Association (APA), collective bargaining agent for the 12,000 pilots of American Airlines (NYSE: AMR), conducted large-scale member meetings at nine locations nationwide today as part of the union’s ongoing contract negotiations.

More than 1,500 pilots attended the meetings, which featured a pre-recorded motivational message by APA President Captain Lloyd Hill, presentations by other APA officials and an update on the contract talks. The union meetings took place in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Miami, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

“By coming together on the same day in such large numbers, our pilots are sending an unmistakable message to American Airlines management,” Hill said. “We are unified and determined to restore our profession.”

Hill pointed out that pilot pay rates at the airline are almost identical to what they were in 1992. Consequently, the pilots’ purchasing power has declined 33 percent since that time due in inflation. In contrast, he noted that the carrier’s management has handsomely rewarded itself during the past few years through stock-based bonuses.

“It’s well past time to repay our sacrifices,” Hill said. “Back in 2003 when our pilots agreed to make deep concessions to help American Airlines avoid bankruptcy, management’s mantra was ‘shared sacrifice, shared reward.’ So far our pilots have only experienced the ‘sacrifice’ portion of that equation, despite our airline’s return to profitability and the riches management has lavished upon itself.

“Enough is enough—we’re ready to collect our reward,” he said.

Hill also pointed out that management triggered the “early opener” provision of the pilots’ contract in July 2006 to begin negotiations, yet little progress has been made.

“Our members need and deserve a prompt resolution to these negotiations,” he said. “Back in 2003 management demonstrated the ability to negotiate a deal quickly when its interests were at stake. It’s time to do the same for our pilots.”

*Founded in 1963, the Allied Pilots Association—the largest independent pilot union in the U.S.—is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. APA represents the 12,000 pilots of American Airlines, including 2,221 pilots on furlough. The furloughs began shortly after the September 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](http://www.alliedpilots.org).*

*American Airlines is the nation’s largest passenger carrier and fifth-largest cargo carrier.*

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