

**Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Thirty-Sixth Board of Directors Meeting
March 31-April 2, 2009
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**A Resolution of the
2009 Board of Directors
Of The
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA**

MARK B. BIGELOW

WHEREAS, Mark B. Bigelow, Esq. became an attorney for the Association of Flight Attendants on April 4, 1983, later becoming Manager and Supervising Attorney for the AFA-CWA office in Chicago, and then Associate General Counsel for Arbitration; and,

WHEREAS, this coming Saturday, April 4, 2009 will mark the completion of Mark's twenty-sixth year as our trusted counselor, mentor, fighter, compassionate advocate and friend; and,

WHEREAS, Mark is a strong and principled colleague who relishes each case and every challenge, and who cares deeply for each member he represents and the contracts he defends; and,

WHEREAS, Mark has often been the last line of defense against injustices in the workplace, literally saving the jobs and the careers of dozens if not hundreds of flight attendants terminated without just cause; and,

WHEREAS, at United Airlines, Mark protected the seniority of thousands of AFA members, winning a landmark arbitration case following our sympathy strike in connection with the 1985 United Airlines pilot strike; and, the following year he accomplished a similar feat for AFA members at Alaska Airlines in connection with our sympathy strike in support of a mechanics strike at Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, at Alaska Airlines, Mark played a key role in the first CHAOS™ strike at Alaska Airlines in 1993. He and Gail and a handful of others were there for the meeting in Washington when the CHAOS strategy was first devised. As CHAOS unfolded over the ensuing months, Mark was a constant presence at strike headquarters, on the picket line and in the trenches. He met the first crew of strikers at the gate, providing on-the-spot advice and reassurance. His steady hand helped to guide the campaign from start to a successful finish, not just at Alaska but also in subsequent CHAOS campaigns at America West, ATA, US Airways and elsewhere; and,

WHEREAS, at United, Mark won the largest monetary award in AFA history – and one of the largest labor arbitration awards of any kind – prevailing in the United wage arbitration case. That one victory, in a case of truly daunting complexity, put over \$47 million dollars into the pockets of United flight attendants; and,

WHEREAS, at US Airways, Mark successfully defended our right to strike, winning an arbitration award that overturned an attempt by US Airways management to claim that common scheduling and hours of work provisions amounted to a de facto no-strike clause. Had Mark not won that case, virtually every AFA contract – and all collective bargaining agreements under the Railway Labor Act – would have been considered to contain these restrictive implied no-strike clauses; and,

WHEREAS, at America West, Mark Bigelow was the first arbitration attorney following the election of AFA-CWA at America West and won the first arbitration case in 2000 in defense of our first contract which ratified in 1999 and continued as our arbitration attorney through 2008, and

WHEREAS, at Hawaiian Airlines, and at Alaska, America West, ATA, Air Wisconsin, Aloha, United and countless other airlines, AFA-CWA members who were returned to work after an unjust termination or those wronged by company violations of our collective bargaining agreements came to know Mark as their champion; and,

WHEREAS, AFA-CWA councils across our system found their voice through this soft spoken yet tenacious counselor; and,

WHEREAS, Mark now faces a personal challenge more difficult than any other and is home surrounded by friends, family, his AFA-CWA family and his loving wife Gail Bigelow, her daughter Katie and Mark's children Louisa and Luke;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2009 AFA-CWA Board of Directors, on behalf of our 40,000 members, send our love, support and solidarity to Gail Bigelow, Mark's wife and our dear friend and fellow member, who has been at his side every day during his courageous battle. Alaska flight attendants will comfort Gail as a fellow member, colleague, AFA-CWA leader and friend, and so will we; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that delegates to the 2009 AFA-CWA Board of Directors, meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin March 31, 2009 through April 2, 2009, in honor, respect, love and recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to AFA-CWA members hereby bestows upon our dear friend and colleague Mark B. Bigelow Honorary Membership in the Association of Flight Attendants – CWA.

And we so move,

*Adopted Unanimously by the Thirty-Sixth Board of Directors of the Association of Flight Attendants, CWA, AFL-CIO
March 31, 2009*