

As we honor labor this weekend, I'd like to say a few words about our Union and our profession. In the U.S. and Canada, what we do in the Labor Movement matters. On September 13, ALPA delegates and hundreds of leaders from 56 unions will assemble at the AFL-CIO convention. We will elect a new president as we honor President John Sweeney in his retirement. I have proudly endorsed Rich Trumka for president.

These unions represent 10.5 million workers and their families, and we will set the agenda for labor priorities over the next four years, just as I asked you to set ALPA's priorities last year. From legislation on health care to the right to organize and bargain, from bankruptcy reform to trade treaties and EU-U.S. aviation agreements, ALPA members have a seat at the table. And we will have the support for our issues as we support other union members in theirs.

Yesterday, the United pilots and I represented all ALPA pilots when we joined Secretary Hilda Solis for her first Labor Day speech. She encouraged us to come together with all workers even more as we try to address the many problems we face. On the return trip to Washington with Secretary Solis, we had some time to discuss issues like managements that revel in firing union leaders and job protection legislation for the global industry. I was honored to have the privilege to Jumpseat with the two United pilots flying the aircraft. Both had on their ALPA

wings, and we discussed many of the issues that our United brothers and sisters and our profession face. After we landed, Secretary Solis stayed behind to meet these two ALPA pilots.

Finally, I don't need to remind you that the upcoming Labor Day holidays have been set aside in your honor—and in honor of *all* the workers who built our two nations and, every day, provide the services and products that give the citizens of America, Canada, and much of the world a decent life.

As airline pilots, we have a special role to play in this essential work. We connect the world.

This is our work, the labor that this long weekend celebrates.

This is what a labor union is all about. We work together, we stand together, we fight together. We are airline pilots. We are Labor. We are ALPA.