

To all:

Today is Veterans Day all over America, and in Washington, D.C. it is a special event. If any of you have taken the opportunity to watch the news events of the day and the coverage; one theme stands clear. This is a day to honor all veterans, and a day to recognize the importance of veterans' rights. Outside of someone's personal religious holidays, this is possibly the most important holiday on the calendar. It honors those who served in uniform and many who lost their lives doing so; in order that you and I should enjoy the freedoms that are the basis of America.

Along the way many organizations have lost the true perspective of what it took to get them to where they are. DOD information confirms that every month we lose approximately 175 veterans of military service to this ludicrous Age 60 Rule. The Age 60 Rule has no basis in fact, application or practicality, and is simply a political concession to SCAB labor unions and greedy CEOs. It is designed to shield the ramifications of years of illegal abuse against employees, protect those who are attempting to buy Congressional immunity for their grievances and attempts to paste you to the bottom of the seniority list. Every air carrier has pilots who continue to serve in reserve and guard units. Many are recipients of government funding for CRAF fleet obligations. Many have received ATSB funded loans (tax payer dollars) to stave off liquidation after 9-11. At USAirways alone there are 110 pilots called to ACTIVE DUTY. EVERY pilot who is a military veteran is subject to recall in time of war- EVEN OVER THE AGE OF 60. That's correct, the FAA bureaucrats can't recognize your right to work in America, but you can be called to active duty. What are they going to tell the first recalled pilot returning from a combat theater over age 60? THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK HERE ANYMORE!! That's what the FAA says, that's what Chairman Oberstar says and that's what ANY group that supports a "prospective only" application of law against these veterans says as well. There are NO excuses, and wished for expediency doesn't cut it.

Today in Washington, D.C. thousands of fliers were distributed to veterans and visitors at every memorial. Prior to that distribution,

the information was faxed to Congressional offices.

The information speaks to veterans from all over America. It states the inequity of the Age 60 Rule, the unlawful demand for immunity by labor and CEOs, members of Congress that talk about supporting veterans while proposing legislation denying the right to work and also thanks many members of Congress that do more than just talk about their obligations as your representatives. Washington politics operates on the three Ps, Praise minus Pain = Power. Some politicians only respond to the pain of public scrutiny. The choice is theirs. We've had years of talk and no action. The longest list in Washington is the list of excuses. Today 1 of every 4 homeless people are veterans. Fourteen thousand homeless veterans exist on the streets of our nation's capital alone.

The fliers that we distributed were welcomed with amazement and anger at the treatment of veterans. We ask that these members of Congress be called. The people who came to Washington, D.C. today care about veterans' rights. They recognize the value in protecting the rights of all, not just stumping for what works for you. They will make those calls– bet on it!

This week in the Congress there is the possibility of a vote on Transportation and HUD. You should know that THUD was amended with the Oberstar language to grant immunity, insure a prospective only approach and introduces other possible violations to ADEA. The Bill contains hundreds of earmarks, is far over budget and is promised a Presidential veto in form. The Oberstar language has another related problem. Recently, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in an age discrimination case against FedEx (Federal Express Corp. v. Paul Holowecki, Et al.). While the case before the court deals in whether EEOC required complaint forms were completed in time for Mr. Holowecki to join a lawsuit against FedEx; thus being a legal plaintiff, it brings to light some common issues. One is the labyrinth of the EEOC process, but more importantly is the discussion of ADEA. In his questioning of counsel Chief Justice Roberts stated very clearly that the ADEA makes it unlawful for any employer to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's age. You

can bet that labor, management and the Congress heard those words of a very conservative Justice loud and clear.

You may have seen a letter from the VVA to Congressman Oberstar's office requesting the release of HR-1125 because it was important to veterans. The letter was written under the false assumption that HR-1125 protects the job rights of all veterans. After talking to officials of the VVA, they confirm that the VVA does not support legislation that is prospective only and that their position in this regard will be clarified to Congress. HR-1125 has had multiple attempts to be moved from the suspension calendar to a vote. Each attempt has been blocked by Congressman Oberstar because it does not afford the immunity protections that he demands for ALPA and the air carriers. I would not assume that position will change.

My thanks to everyone who has supported The Senior Pilots Coalition. Our efforts to attain an equitable solution continue without reserve. Last week we filed four more plaintiffs before the Court of Appeals and are processing the paperwork for five new additions to the cause. It's important to remember that the appeal of a waiver denial must be filed within 60 days of the denial postmark to you. Please do not delay in notification of your receipt of a denial.

I received an invitation to speak to another forum and Presidential hopeful in N.H. next Wednesday. I will certainly take that opportunity for us all. I hope you have all celebrated this Veterans Day as we should. Our membership reflects 94% military service. Veterans' rights are not for sale or trade, and they are never prospective. NO PILOT LEFT BEHIND

Lew Tetlow
SPC, Pres.