
AAPR Applauds President's FAA Administrator Nominee J. Randolph “Randy” Babbitt

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 1, 2009) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (AAPR) today applauded President Barack Obama's choice of J. Randolph “Randy” Babbitt as Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Captain Babbitt brings nearly forty years of experience in the field of aviation to this important position. He flew for more than twenty-five years as a pilot for Eastern Airlines before becoming CEO of the Airline Pilots Association (APA), a post he held for much of the 1990s. He is also an entrepreneur, having launched his own consulting firm, Eclat Consulting in Reston, Virginia, after finishing his association with the APA, eventually merging with Oliver Wyman's global Aviation, Aerospace & Defense practice in September, 2007.

AAPR expects that Captain Babbitt's years of experience heading up the APA has given him the best possible background and highest level of credibility to negotiate with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), who have been without a contract for almost 1,000 days, and to reach a collective bargaining agreement, echoing Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's call for collaboration instead of confrontation.

“The FAA has been without an Administrator for far too long, and during these challenging times the airline industry needs a well-balanced leader,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “AAPR stands ready to work with Captain Babbitt as the new FAA Administrator to address airline operation and safety standards, flight crew fatigue, and other issues most important to airline passengers – including implementation of the passenger bills of rights once passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.”

Macsata further stated, “AAPR also will encourage Babbitt to change the 2003 FAA customer service initiative that required aviation inspectors to treat air carriers and other aviation certificate holders as ‘customers’ rather than regulated entities. While well-intended, FAA's approach has yielded toothless enforcement standards among other unintended consequences.”

He also hailed Captain Babbitt for being a strong proponent of NextGen, which would modernize air traffic control, airport and airline operations and security to revolutionize the way our nation controls its airspace, and will accelerate the pace at which NextGen's various and wide-ranging components is set to be implemented.

The Association for Airline Passenger Rights is a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote fairer customer service and accessibility standards in the airline industry and to improve passenger satisfaction. AAPR was formed in response to growing dissatisfaction among American consumers toward the airline industry. According to the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), a polling organization that rates over forty-three businesses in ten sectors based on in-depth interviewing and computer-based extrapolation of its results, the Big Six legacy airlines (full-service providers with national or international flight routes) rate the lowest of all sixteen industries surveyed in the first quarter of 2008.

For more information about the Association for Airline Passenger Rights, please visit www.flyfriendlyskies.com or contact AAPR directly at info@flyfriendlyskies.com.

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