



R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

Commentary

I AM VOTING

Americans are voting now. And that simple act defines us as patriots.

From the blood-soaked ground of Lexington and Concord to the charred desert tracts of Iraq and Afghanistan, we, as a nation, have fought to determine our own destiny. We have fought for the freedom to cast a ballot without coercion, the freedom to speak our minds without intimidation, the freedom to assemble in order to better govern ourselves. It is both our birthright and our duty as Americans.

From a railroad pit in Atlanta in 1888 to the flight lines of Delta in 2010, IAM members have used a simple tool – our own votes – to build a better life for our families, our neighbors and our fellow citizens. The votes we cast in union meetings and polling booths set us apart. Those votes define who we are and what we believe: Here, The People Rule.

So to me, I AM VOTING isn't a political slogan. It is a solemn pledge; a pledge patriots make to each other. I ask you to make that simple pledge now.

Take time to understand what is at stake, who has earned your vote and how they will use the power you give them. Then take the time to vote, to do your duty as an American patriot.

At Delta, IAM members will be voting to protect what prior generations won at Northwest – *seniority, job security, secure pensions, wage security and fairness*. They can – and they will – win a resounding victory by voting “YES for the IAM!”

After all the votes are cast and counted – at Delta and in precincts closer to home – the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers will be able to say with complete conviction that together, our votes lifted you, lifted me, lifted us all.

Tom

IAM JOURNAL



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The IAM Journal (ISSN 1083-0413) is published quarterly by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687. PHONE: 301-967-4520 FAX: 301-967-4586. The IAM Journal is mailed to every member in accordance with convention and referendum action. Subscription price \$10 per year. Printed by Kelly Press, 1701 Cabin Branch Road, Cheverly, Maryland. Postmaster: Change of Address Form 3579 should be sent to: IAM Journal, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD. Periodicals postage paid at Upper Marlboro, MD and additional mailing offices.

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