

AFA-CWA Local Executive Council 43 - Message to Members



September 10, 2021
CRAF Flying

Dear Fellow Flight Attendants,

Approximately three weeks ago, the Federal Government tasked carriers to assist with the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) mission; the goal was to assist in the Afghanistan humanitarian flights. And while our company was included, our flying did not commence until after other carriers operated the initial flights.

The notice our company received was literally a few hours. This meant that our Reserve Flight Attendants were called for the first company mission. Soon after, we had additional time to allow Flight Attendants to bid for these trips. It is with deep gratitude and regard that we thank you. For those of you who had less than 3 hours to report for duty, those who wanted to help and others who were awarded these flights...we are grateful!

We all know by now, how challenging the logistics were. Despite a schedule, our crews had to pivot with little or no notice. Our peers smiled during a highly emotional and difficult time when Afghans left all they knew and loved with whatever they could carry out of Kabul. And there were inherent cultural and language barriers that presented challenges for crew and passengers alike.

What we also know is this - our Flight Attendants did their very best to help and host our passengers. We know that our crews helped not just one another, but the next crews by sharing their insight and suggestions to help with non-normals in terms of boarding, serving, deplaning and interacting with our special passengers. And we know that this would be THE most difficult yet rewarding flights for those who operated it. Mahalo for your empathy and tireless efforts. As the refugees waved "goodbye," your malama was welcome and noted.

As our CRAF flying concludes this week, there is no greater joy and pride than our sentiment to you - our Flight Attendant brothers and sisters. Many of you wanted to help in any way possible - you lifted one another leading up to, during and now, even after flying these missions. Yet is it not what you do just in these few moments, but what you do each and every day when both in and out of work. Thank you for being a wonderful group to serve - and thank you for being wonderful individuals.

With Deep Admiration,
Jaci-Ann, Kahea, Kerri
and the entire AFA-CWA Council 43 Leadership