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AMFA Mechanics Ratify Tentative Agreement With Southwest Airlines

DALLAS, Jan. 30 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Southwest Airlines is pleased to announce that the Southwest Airlines Maintenance Employees represented by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) voted to ratify the tentative, four-year agreement both parties reached in early December 2008. The new contract is active through Aug. 16, 2012. The official Collective Bargaining Agreement will be signed in Dallas on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009.

"I commend the negotiations Teams for delivering a contract that benefits our Employees and also positions Southwest Airlines for continued financial strength," said Gary Kelly, Southwest's Chairman, President, and CEO. "In light of these challenging economic times, the Teams delivered a cost neutral contract that protects jobs and preserves our unique and proud Culture."

The new contract delivers raises in exchange for work rule improvements and scheduling flexibility along with productivity and gained efficiencies. It also offers Southwest's mechanics stronger job security and protection.

Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV), the nation's largest carrier in terms of domestic passengers enplaned, currently serves 64 cities (will begin service to Minneapolis-St. Paul in March 8, 2009) in 32 states. Based in Dallas, Southwest currently operates more than 3,200 flights a day and has more than 35,000 Employees systemwide.

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