



On May 7, 2010, Miami International Purser Marie Lockbaum worked her last flight, from LHR to MIA. On this very same day 40 years ago, Marie was hired as an American Airlines Stewardess. Throughout the years, Marie worked diligently, staying focused on providing excellent service to our customers. She mastered the art of treating our customers as her guests. Marie participated in many task forces and was instrumental in the interior design of the A300 upon its introduction to our fleet.

In the late 1980s, AA had Quality of Work Life (QWL) committees in all work groups. As the Flight Attendant QWL group continued to meet month after month, it was noted that most bases had created their own groups that raised funds to help fellow flight attendants in need. Marie and fellow Flight Attendants Patti Baskin, Ada Asher and many others, created the idea of a unified organization and the Wings Foundation was born.

With the support of senior management, the American Airlines Credit Union, APFA and some very dedicated flight attendants, the Wings Foundation became a reality in 1989. Many people were responsible for the birth of Wings Foundation; however, none have had as profound an effect upon the foundation as Marie Lockbaum. As National Chairperson of the organization for 15 years, Marie was the guiding force of the Wings Foundation. Marie was determined that the Wings Foundation would always be there to help any AA flight attendant facing the difficulties of being unable to work due to illness or disability.

In February 2005, Marie decided to step back from her Leadership role to prepare others to take up the reins of the Wings Foundation, so the Foundation would continue its great work for AA flight attendants for many years to come.

On May 7, as Flight 57 arrived in Miami, Marie received a water cannon salute normally reserved for pilots. Her legacy speaks for itself. Marie is an excellent Purser and leader and she will be greatly missed by her customers, peers and management.

Congratulations to Marie on her retirement and thank you for 40 outstanding years!

