



#### **Aircraft Flown**

- Airbus 320
- Boeing 737
- Boeing 757
- Boeing 767
- Boeing 777
- C-130 Hercules
- CRJ 50
- Dornier 328 Jet
- T-37 Tweet
- T-38 Talon

William “CJ” Charlton is the founder and Executive Director of the Black Aviation Endowment Fund (BAE-Fund). The BAE-Fund exists to support individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities that seek to pursue careers as professional aviators in the civilian or military sectors, and the organizations and institutions that provide educational and training opportunities for those individuals.

CJ’s fascination with flying, military service and travel, stems from his childhood. His father was in the U.S. Air Force, but primarily served in the U.S. State Department’s Defense Attaché Office. Not only did this afford CJ’s family the chance to live in many foreign countries, but the opportunity to travel the world experiencing different cultures.

The education he received from a global perspective of the world developed his leadership skills and a desire to serve his country. Upon returning to the states for his senior year of high school, CJ applied to, and was accepted to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). Adding to the honor, CJ was also awarded a 4-year Air Force ROTC scholarship to pursue Aeronautical Engineering.

While attending ERAU, CJ participated in ROTC, sports, held various leadership positions with different campus organizations, and joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. During his time at ERAU, the Air Force began to scale back on the number of new pilots it planned to train. Not wanting to see his dream of being an aviator fade, CJ transferred to Delaware State University to major in Airway Science.

He eventually graduated from Delaware State University with a bachelor’s degree. While attending the university, CJ was recruited by the North Carolina Air National Guard (NCANG) to become a C-130 pilot. He became the first African American without prior military experience sponsored by NCANG, to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) for the Air Force.

During his distinguished career in the Air Force, CJ accumulated over 3000 flight hours, with over 1,500 of those hours occurring in combat conditions. He also served on the selection panels for future pilot training candidates, recruited and mentored future officers, held the position of squadron safety officer, managed aircrews on deployments, and led various high visibility missions around the globe.

CJ currently serves as a captain flying the Airbus 319/20/21 for United Airlines. He flies both domestic and international routes out of Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to his current position, he was a first officer and later promoted to captain with Atlantic Coast Airlines.

Despite his busy schedule, CJ makes time to give back to communities throughout the country. He is most known for developing and crafting pathways for future aviators to pursue aviation. He’s an active member of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP), having previously served in various capacities including, national director of the OBAP Aviation Career Education Academies, Regional Vice President, Parliamentarian, and chairman of the Professional Pilot Development Program. Additionally, CJ serves on the Aviation Advisory Board for Jacksonville University, is the chair of the Aviation Advisory Board at Delaware State University and serves on the Board of Directors for the Delaware State University Foundation. He is a mentor in the Black Executive Exchange Program. He is a life member of the DSU Alumni Association.

CJ is a native of Hampton, Virginia, but resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife and three daughters.