

# WE CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH



ALEX MACDONALD | IDAHO

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I worked hard and sacrificed a lot over decades to become an airline pilot. AND, I had a cushion and comforts throughout my career that others didn't.

Generations of family wealth allowed me to pursue my love of aviation without racking up insurmountable student debt; and I understand that building wealth in this country has been, and continues to be, a great deal easier for White folks than for people of color. Further, being White and male, like the vast majority in my position, I was surrounded by people who looked like me. I never had to fear not being accepted because of my gender or race. I never felt like I had to work twice as hard to prove my worth to overcome someone else's bias about me being a 'DEI hire.' I never had to navigate comments or slurs from other pilots in the flight deck. I didn't have to work extra hard to prove my worth.

Yes, I worked hard. AND yes, my appearance opened doors for me without me even having to knock. That's the whole truth.