



CABLE PUBLISHING, INC.

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He Dared to Dream

On a beautiful day in March 1965, a Continental Airlines turboprop lifted flawlessly off the runway at Denver's Stapleton Airport and flew into history. In the cockpit was Marlon DeWitt Green, America's first African American pilot to be hired by a passenger airline company.

Cable Publishing proudly announces the release of ***Turbulence Before Takeoff: The Life & Times of Aviation Pioneer Marlon DeWitt Green***, the controversial story of an accomplished black Air Force pilot whose dream to fly passenger airlines was thwarted at every turn by racist airline policies. Only a long, agonizing, and expensive court battle, culminating in a unanimous landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision on April 22, 1963, finally enabled him to achieve his goal.

The name "Marlon DeWitt Green" is not a familiar one to most Americans, yet what he accomplished through his dogged persistence in the late 1950s and early 1960s changed the face of aviation—and civil rights—in America forever. ***Turbulence Before Takeoff*** is a searing, maddening, and ultimately triumphant story that involves a cast of characters including U.S. Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, Continental Airlines' president Robert F. Six, former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, the controversial Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Floyd Dominy, the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, and T. Raber Taylor, a determined Denver lawyer who did not know the meaning of the word "quit."

Throughout the story, Pulitzer-nominated author Flint Whitlock artfully rekindles the tenor of the times by interspersing Green's personal, heroic struggle against racism and discrimination with "news items" of the even larger civil-rights issues then tearing at the fabric of America. Sit-ins, civil-rights marches, and the efforts of a brave group of Freedom Riders contrast sharply with lynchings and bombings by the Ku Klux Klan, race riots, and the shattering assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy. ***Turbulence Before Takeoff*** is the never-to-be-forgotten story about the value of perseverance in fighting an unjust system and the difference one man (and his family) can make.

In 1986, after various jobs including those of a public-relations director for a professional soccer team, journalism instructor, sports columnist, advertising copywriter,

art director, creative director, and owner of his own advertising and graphic design agency, Flint Whitlock began writing military history. In 2003, Whitlock realized a life-long dream and became a full-time author. His books have been critically acclaimed, and he has been honored with several prizes. Included in his very successful writing career are requests nationwide for speaking engagements and numerous television appearances. Whitlock and his wife live in Denver and have three grown children.

Two of Whitlock's titles, *Capt. Jepp and the Little Black Book* and *Internal Conflicts*, are also available through Cable Publishing. In 2008, *Capt. Jepp* was a finalist for Colorado Book of the Year.

420 pages, including numerous family and historical photos

Hardcover, \$24.95; ISBN 978-1-934980-66-8

Soft cover, \$17.95; ISBN 978-1-934980-67-5

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Cable Publishing is partnering with OBAP (Organization of Black Airline Pilots) in their efforts to enable qualified minority youth and young professionals to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace through a variety of programs. For further information, please contact 800-JET-OBAP, e-mail nationaloffice@obap.org, or visit www.obap.org.

What others are saying about *Turbulence Before Takeoff*

Flint Whitlock has written the deeply moving personal story of Marlon D. Green and his struggle to become an airline pilot. To read Turbulence Before Takeoff is to revisit the difficult and sometimes dangerous times of the Civil Rights Movement.

John Seigenthaler

Special Assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, 1961-62

In Turbulence Before Takeoff, Flint Whitlock offers an insightful biography of Marlon Green, a compelling figure in modern aviation history and the on-going saga of civil rights in the American experience. Whitlock reconstructs in this highly readable biography the gripping and prolonged struggle of Green to overcome the obstacle of racial exclusion, a quest that ultimately took him to the U.S. Supreme Court. Marlon Green's case became a milestone event in aviation history.

Von Hardesty

Curator, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

Turbulence Before Takeoff offers great insight into what one man—and his family—endured when all he wanted to do was “his life’s work” as an airline pilot. It also recounts the tensions permeating through the 1950s and ‘60s in the fight for civil rights. The story is tremendous, provocative, and well written and is a testament to courage, perseverance, and faith.

Xavier Samuels
Southwest Regional Vice President
Organization of Black Airline Pilots

Turbulence Before Takeoff is the brilliantly written story of Marlon Green, a man who dared to dream of a better life for himself and his family, and his struggle to make his dream of flying as a passenger airline pilot come true. The civil rights news items winding through the story brought me back to those troubling times in our history and greatly added to the emotional tone of the story. This is a must-read for everyone interested in aviation, civil rights, or fascinating biographies of historical pioneers.

Di Freeze
Aviation biographer

This latest contribution to the broad panoply of aviation history literature is a peculiarly American story. Whitlock has done an outstanding presentation of in-depth research that artfully merges the tenor of the times, the intimate details of youthful optimism, and the realities of career growth in aviation – while at the same time recording a social revolution. This book should be read and made a part of the library of every aviation enthusiast.

Dan Hagedorn
Senior Curator at The Museum of Flight, Seattle

The importance of Marlon Green’s pioneering efforts cannot be overestimated. The challenges he faced alone were unimaginable. The fact that he was successful requires us to respect and cherish the opportunities we enjoy. Our challenge is to never forget his sacrifices and continue to provide opportunities for future generations.

Calvin Allen, Captain
Delta Airlines
Organization of Black Airline Pilots

Captain Marlon Green wanted not to achieve greatness but to use his skills and abilities for gainful employment. We acknowledge the extraordinary milestone achieved with the rendering of Captain Green’s unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision in April 1963; we do so, standing on the shoulders of Captain Green. We hope to pursue our goals with the same dignity, tenacity, and dedication so that others—now and in the future—may benefit from our pursuits.

Cheryl Chew
Executive Director
Organization of Black American Pilots