

DARREN ELLISOR

BIOGRAPHY

Darren Ellisor is a Captain at Southwest Airlines with over 11,000 flying hours. He started flying for Southwest in 2008 after serving more than 10 years in the active-duty Air Force. Darren graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 1997. In the Air Force he flew multiple versions of the Boeing 707, accumulating the majority of his time in the E-3 AWACS as an Instructor and Evaluator Pilot. In the E-3, he flew numerous Combat Support flights during Operation NOBLE EAGLE and during middle east deployments for Operation NORTHERN WATCH, Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, as well as counter-drug operations. During tours at Tinker AFB, OK and Geilenkirchen NATO Airbase, Germany, Darren worked as Squadron Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, as well as Chief of Flight Safety. He was named Pilot of the Year in 2004.

On April 17, 2018, Darren was flying with Captain Tammie Jo Shults from LaGuardia to Dallas-Love on Southwest Airlines Flight 1380. Climbing through 32,500 feet the number one engine exploded, causing shrapnel to damage much of the left wing and a passenger window to blow out. The aircraft banked more than 41 degrees to the left, experienced extreme aircraft vibration, hydraulic malfunctions, and an explosive decompression of the cabin. Darren, who was flying the aircraft at the time, recovered from the ensuing unusual attitude and started a descent. He worked alongside Captain Shults and their flight attendants Rachel Fernheimer, Kathryn Sandoval, and Seanique Mallory to safely make an emergency landing of the crippled jet at Philadelphia International airport—saving 148 lives. One passenger was unfortunately killed in the accident. In his free time Darren has volunteered as a Cub Scout Pack Leader and as a Little League baseball coach. Darren and his wife, Jennifer, live in League City with their four children.