



**Robert Jones**  
**Seasonal Pilot**  
**Helicopter Transportation Services**

My journey to fulfilling my flying dream wasn't the easiest to say the least. As an Army veteran, I utilized my Post 9/11 GI Bill to obtain my pilot license(s). During my time of education and training many flight schools were shut down around the nation for various reasons unbeknownst to the students. I moved around the country and sought training at four different flight schools before finally finishing my dream of being a helicopter pilot and flight instructor.

I started instructing early 2017 in Oregon with Precision Aviation Training, and my experiences were very rewarding. After meeting the chief pilot of Helicopter Transportation Services (HTS) a couple times over the course of a year and touring their headquarters in Aurora, Oregon, I received a call from him asking me if I'd be interested in fighting wild land fires with the Sikorsky Skycrane. I think I blurted out, "YES!" before he finished asking me, and then my career took off (both metaphorically and literally).

I've been hired now by HTS as a seasonal pilot to help the U.S. Forestry Service fight fires around the country. I've also been type rated in the Sikorsky S-64 Skycrane. From the time I started training to where I am now in my career, I have overcome many challenges through diligence, resiliency, perseverance, and hard work