



## DCA Flight Attendant Amy Olson

"I Live to Serve."



Amy's story began while looking for her first job as a nurse right out of college in 1981 and was commissioned into the Air Force's Nurse Corp. She joined mainly out of curiosity. "I have to be a nurse somewhere," she explained. "Why not serve in this environment and see what it's about?"

After spending three years in active duty, Amy then switched to the Reserves. That's when she became a flight nurse at Kelly Air Force Base because she loved to fly.

She brought that love of aviation to American Airlines in 1995 when she left nursing full-time to become a flight attendant.

Amy was still in the Air Force Reserves, so she had to attend weekend drills from time to time while balancing her new career. In 2003, she got an opportunity she couldn't refuse – a one-time, full-year opportunity with the Air National Guard in Cheyenne, Wyoming. What she thought would be just one year of military leave ended up turning into 13.

"American Airlines never said you have to choose the military or us. They always said provide the orders, show you're on active duty, and we've got your back."

During that 13-year stint, she had multiple deployments, including stops in Qatar, Germany, Arizona and Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C.

A lot of policies and procedures changed during Amy's time away. When she returned to American in 2016, she ended up having to go through new-hire training again. Nonetheless, she was thrilled and thankful to return to the airline career she loved.

"There is no other job on this planet that would have let me live dual-status like that and still have a job to come back to."

Along with a love for serving others, Amy says her service with the Air Force taught her flexibility that she uses today as a flight attendant. Amy officially retired two years ago as a lieutenant colonel, but the Air Force holds an important space in her heart.

"I am proud to be a veteran," says Amy, "And I am proud to tell my story."

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