

*\*How did growing up in a military family inspire your education and career aspirations?*

The lucky number four. The number that has hung over me with such gravity since childhood. Three generations. Three chances. All leading to me - lucky number four.

Since I can remember, my life has been painted with the blue and white colors of the Navy. The artists that held those paint brushes included my great grandmother, grandfather, and both of my parents. My great grandmother paved the way for our family. She was one of the first black women in North Carolina to pursue the role as a nurse during World War II. My grandfather followed in her footsteps, working hard to achieve a position as commander. Both my mother and father served as well; My father being a chef, and my mother working on airplanes. With a background such as this one, my upbringing was splattered with their lessons of hard work and perseverance.

Within the three generations that came before me, none of them have had the privilege of attending college directly after high school. Finances had been a tsunami of a barrier between what both sides of my family desired, and what they could afford. Their hardships built the platform of my education and career aspirations.

During my four years of college, I aspire to reach greater education heights than I have before. Next year, I will begin the journey of obtaining a Political Science degree from Syracuse University. I found that this major would be a perfect stepping stone towards my desired career because it incorporates both politics and aiding society. I plan on starting my freshman year strong by taking American National Government and Politics Honors. It is an insightful program that will allow me to retain a deeper understanding of how both civilians and service members assist America's success.

My four years of undergraduate school is but a small step in my larger career goal. According to the National Bar Association, only 4.5 percent of lawyers in the United States are black. I am determined to join this small demographic. As I have gotten older, I have decided that I want to specialize in real estate law. This sector is perfect for someone like myself that is organized and thrives off of social interaction. Along with being an attorney, I also want to open a nonprofit housing center for retired veterans. No one that has served our country should sleep on the streets. Through hard work and perseverance, I shall see to it that this is executed.

As my childhood was painted with the blue and white of the Navy, my next four years shall be overcome with new strokes of blue and orange. I, generation four, am steadfast in pursuing this opportunity that has never been afforded to the generations before me. I will use my military upbringing to mold my aspirations into a beacon of light for me, my family, and society. I would only be so grateful if I could have your assistance in doing so along the way.