



Kirk Fuchigami Jr.

**War In Afghanistan
Chief Warrant Officer 2
1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment
1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division
U.S. Army
July 14, 1994 – November 20, 2019
Henderson, Nevada**

For an American infantryman waging battle against insurmountable odds, there is no sweeter sound than U.S. aircraft flying in to join the fight. One such aircraft is the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

The main role of the Apache is to support ground troops with aerial firepower. Apache pilots protect soldiers on the ground and help them accomplish their combat mission. And they do this while they themselves are under threat of enemy fire.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kirk Takeshi Fuchigami Jr. was an Apache pilot who lost his life while supporting U.S. ground troops in the Logar Province in Afghanistan on November 20, 2019.

Kirk was born on the island of Hawaii and moved at an early age to Henderson, Nevada. He attended Rancho High in Las Vegas and through a special high school aviation program Kirk was able to obtain a pilot's license. He told friends he wanted to become an Apache helicopter pilot. At Rancho High he was also a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, taking steps to enter a career in the military.

In 2016, Kirk enlisted in the U.S. Army and after basic combat training went on to flight school. He graduated high in his class, giving him a choice of aircraft to pilot. He chose the Apache. After completing attack helicopter training, Kirk was assigned to 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

As well as enjoying flying, Kirk's hobbies were shooting, fishing, martial arts and building things with his hands. Kirk fell in love with a young lady, McKenzie Norman, and in 2019, months before his deployment to Afghanistan, they were married. Family and friends described him as kind, brilliant, and a jack of all trades who knew how to do everything from fixing a car to playing the ukulele.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fuchigami's awards include the Army Aviator Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

