

THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING



IN LOVING MEMORY



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4
DEREK JOSHUA ABBOTT
"PUNISHER 12"

FEBRUARY 14, 1982 - FEBRUARY 23, 2024



Military Funeral Honors
Will Be Rendered Graveside
at
Itawamba Memorial Gardens
3890 MS-178, Fulton, MS 38843

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DAVIS EVENT CENTER
FULTON, MISSISSIPPI
3:00 P.M.
MARCH 17, 2024

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Sarah Gunnells
& Bradley Adams

SONG - *THUNDERSTRUCK*

LEGACY & OPENING PRAYER

Bro. Phillip Holley

FAMILY SONG

REMARKS

Bro. Andy Black

SONG - *GRATITUDE*

Brandon Lake

REMARKS

CPT Harris "Bubba" Bryan

SONG - *DON'T GROW UP TOO FAST*

Cody Webb

CLOSING PRAYER

Bro. Andy Black

SONG - *ANGEL FLIGHT*

Radney Foster

POSTLUDE

Sarah Gunnells
& Bradley Adams

PALLBEARERS

Danny Abbott, Sr.
Danny Abbot, Jr.
Roy Savage
Austin Lindley
Chad Gentry

SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS

Wife - Brandi Abbott

Children - Chandler Wood, Breanna Abbott & Grayson Abbott

Exchange Students - Sarah Mirshahidi & Pauline Schult

Mother - Mary Savage (Roy)

Father - Danny Abbott

Brother - Danny Abbott Jr. (Christi)

Uncles - Gary Abbott and (the late) Jackie Abbott

Nieces - Savannah Abbott, Samantha Abbott, and Lexi Wilson

Plus, an abundance of friends and family, and many other God children and youth that call him spiritual father and mentor.



LEGACY

Derek Joshua Abbott, the man, the myth, the legend! Born on Valentine's Day in 1982, he was a devout Christian that loved his family and loved the Lord. He will always be the "Forever Hero" to all who knew him. He was a professional Aviator, employed with PHI as Captain, Medium IFR Lead Pilot, a distinguished Army National Guard Combat Veteran, an AH-64 Apache Maintenance Test Pilot, a UH-72 Lakota Pilot, a dynamic Soldier, trainer and leader to his brothers-in-arms, a loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend! Derek moved to his heavenly home on February 23, 2024.

Derek was known to his friends and family for his steadfast devotion and love of Christ, his immense love and devotion to his family, his commitment to service in his church, in the military, in his community, and for his country. More than anything he loved spending time with His family. They always came 1st in everything He did. Making sure, above all, they knew they were loved and taken care of.

He loved serving at His church, Crossroads and was a big part of the Emmaus and Chrysalis community. He was an exemplary citizen in the community, living by the example of Jesus Christ and loving everyone He met. He believed in shopping locally and "washing feet" of those he could lend a hand and help.

He and His wife of 18 years have 3 wonderful children together. A favorite family pastime was movie nights at home, complete with popcorn, Oreos, pringles and cuddles. He loved to plan date nights with family and friends often. He loved to travel and try new things. He enjoyed planning family vacations to the beach, Nashville, and Arizona. He loved talking to anyone and everyone.

He loved flying! He even got his private pilot license so he could fly his Cherokee Six. He loved taking anyone and everyone he could to fly to see the sunsets and sunrises. He wanted them to experience the world like He did and see the beauty of heaven and earth from a different view.

A true adventurer and outdoors-man, He also enjoyed motorcycle riding and hiking, always willfully leading the pack, and planning the route.

He loved to be at the ball field with His son, cheering Him and the boys on with Dinger Nation and IAC. He loved spending time with His babies in the front yard playing basketball with His oldest son and grilling for them all too. He absolutely loved being His children's number one fan. He loved sitting back and watching His princess dance, love, and grow. He loved being able to close a new deal and working alongside his best friend and sister-in-law while serving his tenants and home buyers during his time building a portfolio with Southern Life properties and SLP land.

Derek loved being a Soldier. He took being a Soldier to heart. Not only did God create Him to be Brandi's husband and kids' dad, and wonderful son, brother, and friend, but He created Him to be a truly amazing Soldier. His soul always rang true to the Red, White, and Blue. He always took great pride and honor in serving, with stature and great valor in all endeavors.

Derek was a great spiritual leader and mentor. He possessed courage that never wavered under any circumstance. He lived by Faith and shared his testimony with others so they too could experience a life of love and joy in Christ. Leaving an honorable, respectable, full-of-life and love legacy within everyone that knew him. He had the honor of not only being a role model to His children and influencing them to impact their lives. He also helped train young adults on the job with his brothers at PHI and at the Flight Facility in Tupelo. He left a true Godly American Hero mark behind. He truly invested in the lives of those He loved and saw the best in everyone he met.

Derek had two favorite scriptures that He lived by:

Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 24:15 "But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the lord."

Derek, our forever Hero, continue serving in the Lord's Army.

"You have been cleared for final approach."



CW4 Derek Joshua Abbott

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott began his military career on Dec. 27, 2002, when he enlisted in Tupelo, Mississippi, as a private in Company D, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard. Promoted to private second class the following month and transferring to Troop E, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, Abbott went on to Advanced Individual Training, becoming a 15R – AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer upon graduation in October 2003. He quickly rose through the ranks, promoting to private first class in November 2003, specialist in January 2004, and after spending some time in Troop D, 1-104th, he transferred back to Troop E and promoted to sergeant in July 2004.

While serving in Troop E, 1-104th, Abbott attended Warrant Officer Candidate School, graduating on April 29, 2005, and pinning the rank of warrant officer one. Abbott's first assignment as a warrant officer was with Troop E as an AH-64A Apache Pilot. He deployed to Iraq in August 2006, continuing to serve as an Apache pilot. It was during this deployment when Abbott earned the Air Medal with Valor for his actions on April 7, 2007. The award narrative reads, in part:

"For exceptionally valorous achievement during air operations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom on 7 April 2007 at Diwaniyah, Iraq. WO1 Abbott's willingness to place himself in harms way to protect his fellow Soldiers was beyond the call of duty. He continued to provide protection to the lead aircraft despite having received battle damage to his aircraft."

Abbott's other assignments included Aircraft Armament Maintenance Officer and Aviation Maintenance Officer with Company C, 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment; Aviation Maintenance Officer with Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment; Maintenance Test Flight Evaluator with Detachment 1, Company B, 834th Aviation Support Battalion; Aviation Maintenance Officer and Aircraft Armament Maintenance Officer with Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment; Aviation Maintenance Officer with Company A, 1108th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group in Gulfport; and Aviation Safety Officer for Company D of the 2d Battalion, 151st Lakota Medical Evacuation unit in Tupelo. He most recently served as a Maintenance Test Pilot with 2d Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment – Lakota Medical Evacuation.

Dates of rank:

PV1- 27 Dec. 2002
 PV2- 31 Jan. 2003
 PFC- 3 Nov. 2003
 SPC- 3 Jan. 2004
 SGT- 4 July 2004
 WO1- 29 April 2005
 CW2- 3 May 2007
 CW3- 12 Aug. 2011
 CW4- 29 May 2018
 CW5- 23 Feb. 2024
 (Posthumous)

Abbott's awards and decorations include the Air Medal with "V" device and numeral 2; Meritorious Service Medal (Posthumous); Army Commendation Medal with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters; Iraq Campaign Medal with one campaign star; Mississippi Magnolia Cross (Posthumous); the Senior Army Aviator Badge; the Combat Action Badge; and many other decorations and state awards.