



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL
HIROSHI N. IKEDA**

U.S. AIR FORCE

Hiroshi N. Ikeda

Lt. Col. (Ret) Hiroshi “Nick” Ikeda was born in Whittier CA on September 1, 1964, and was the son of Japanese immigrants. Nick spent most of his childhood in Southern California while also living briefly in San Jose, CA, Chicago, IL, and Honolulu, HI.

After spending one year at UCLA, Nick went on to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and graduated from CS-38 in 1987. He later received a Master of Business Administration (Aerospace) from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Science, Procurement and Acquisition Management, Northrop University.

He spent his career in the space world and would have been a natural for the US Space Force. He had assignments with Materiel Command, Space Command, the Intelligence Community and then served as a Legislative Liaison Officer with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Before retiring in 2007, Lt Col Ikeda spent a large portion of his Air Force career with the National Reconnaissance Office and the Missile Defense Agency.

He was one of a few officers selected to participate in the Air Force Japanese Language and Cultural Immersion Program in Osaka, Japan. Being global was nothing new to Lt Col Ikeda. His Air Force projects took him to the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the Russian Federation.

He continued to serve his country after he retired from the Air Force. His work on “The Hill” furthered his love of legislative affairs and politics and he served as Senior Policy Advisor and Military Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka of Hawaii from March 2009 to December 2012. He then went to work for U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii from January 2013 through

March 2020 as her National Security Advisor. He played key roles supporting the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. His legislative portfolio included national security, foreign affairs, veteran affairs, tourism, commerce, and small business. Lt Col Ikeda was also a fabulous mentor to countless junior staffers.

In 2001, he married the love of his life, Joanne Waters, and their travels covered all corners of the earth: from Hong Kong to Thailand, Hawaii to Bora Bora, Croatia to Portugal and Spain, and Argentina to Chile. Lt Col Ikeda’s enthusiasm for life and unfailing support were the foundation of an adventurous and unforgettable partnership.

He was an avid supporter of Big Brothers and Big Sisters where he mentored many young people and loved every second of it.

Lt Col Ikeda bled the blue and silver of his beloved Air Force Falcons, was an avid golfer and a long-time member of the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA.

He became a Trustee of the Falcon Foundation in the spring of 2018 and was looking forward to contributing to young Falcon Scholars’ futures. Tragically, he passed away on June 29, 2020 before he was actively able to participate in Falcon Foundation activities. He would be honored to know there is a scholarship in his name to support fine young Americans in sharpening their skills in their quest to attend the United States Air Force Academy and have long successful careers in the US Air Force or US Space Force.

He is missed by friends all over the world.

Nick was extremely generous with his time for others and kindness, and he touched the lives of so many. We traveled the world together and I will deeply miss our adventures and my beloved partner, but I am so grateful we created such lasting memories.

Ms. Joanne Waters



The Falcon Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit foundation. Its purpose is to provide scholarships to College or Preparatory Schools for motivated young people seeking admission to USAFA and a career in the Air Force.

Although it is a separate organization, the Falcon Foundation works closely with USAFA.