

is honored on Panel 16W, Row 93 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** ANDREW GREGORY KIRCHMAYER  
**Wall Name:** ANDREW G KIRCHMAYER  
**Date of Birth:** 11/1/1938  
**Date of Casualty:** 11/18/1969  
**Home of Record:** FT ATKINSON  
**County of Record:** JEFFERSON COUNTY  
**State:** WI  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** GO CONG



CPT Kirchmayer lost his life while serving as a battalion advisor to a South Vietnamese Army infantry division. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star following a firefight with Viet Cong forces near the town of Cai Lay in Ding Tuong province. He had been awarded the Bronze Star for valor in another battle six weeks earlier. He was assigned to MACV Advisory Team # 75.

CPT Kirchmayer had previously served five years at several Air Defense sites in the U.S. and Germany. Born in Czechoslovakia, he immigrated to the United States from Austria along with his parents and older brother following WWII. He grew up in Ft. Atkinson, WI, where he eventually joined the Army National Guard and served as an enlisted man before being accepted to Officer Candidate School.

Following his death, a college scholarship was set up in his name for graduates of Ft. Atkinson High School who had "some potential genius, with a spark of talent and leadership and love for music."

It was CPT Kirchmayer's compassion for the Vietnamese people that indirectly led to his death in a hot LZ, overrun by overwhelming Viet Cong forces. Two days previously, he had turned down a transfer to Saigon. As reported in his home town paper "He told his superior officers that he could not go because he had a job to do where he was, working with his 'little people', whom he admired so much, and over whom he towered because of his size."



### **To a Hero**

Andy, It's taken me 42 years to write to you, although I have thought of and spoken about you all these years and have even visited your site at the Wall. That experience was a setback because I broke down and collapsed after scratching your name onto a sheet of paper. This Memorial website and the name on the wall should have been mine. I have felt guilt from the day I heard of your heroic death. I had experienced so many similar combat missions. My Doctors over the years tried to explain to me that what happened was fate and not my fault. You were the unfortunate one who replaced me after my tour was over. My question is, "Why didn't it happen to me?" "Why was I spared?" I am sorry too, Andy, that I never was able to face your wife. Our last day together, you had asked me to tell your wife all about our work and that you'll be fine. I arrived at my new assignment in Ft. Bliss the week you were killed. I couldn't face her, I am sorry. I only knew you 2 weeks and my memory of you will be eternal. Remember, your first day at our Team base? That's the day we met. You walked into our little Officer's Club with your cap on, resulting in someone ringing the bell. As a penalty for wearing a cap, you ended up buying a round for everyone. That was an expensive welcome, wasn't it? That was when we realized what we had in common Air Defense Artillery, neither of us were Infantry, although we were expected to be experts in that roll and that your wife would be in Ft. Bliss the same time my wife, son and I would be there. I plan to visit the Wall again to see you, hoping this time, I won't have another breakdown. Regardless, I will always feel guilt and question as to "why you and not me," my friend.

John E. Marino  
Andy was my replacement.  
Lakewood Ranch FL 34202 USA  
Oct 17, 2011



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**Silver Star**

*Awarded **posthumously** for actions during the Vietnam War*

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Captain Andrew Gregory Kirchmayer, United States Army, was awarded the Silver Star (Posthumously) for gallantry in action on November 18, 1969 while serving with the U.S. IV Corps in Southeast Asia.

**General Orders:** Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, General Orders No. 7055 (1969)

**Action Date:** November 18, 1969

**Service:** Army

**Rank:** Captain

**Division:** IV Corps



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Fort Atkinson Catholic Cemetery Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin