

U.S. NAVY
SEAMAN SECOND
CLASS WAYNE A.
BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 11,
2022

WAGNER, SD





On November 26, 2019, South Dakota launched the Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program. The program dedicates state bridges to South Dakota heroes who died while in active service, were a prisoner of war or were missing in action.

The Choteau Creek River Bridge on HWY 46 is dedicated to U.S. Navy Seaman Second Class Wayne A. Bridge.



Bridge served during WW II on the USS Indianapolis. With over 1,200 men on board, the ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945, while steaming between Guam and Leyte. The vessel, along with 880 members of her crew perished in the Pacific Ocean. Bridge was among those reported killed in action.

For his service...and sacrifice...Bridge received many medals and citations. Among them...the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.