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PFC DAVID R. GATTON

JULY 16, 2022

MURDO, 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 White River Bridge on US HWY 83, south of Murdo, is dedicated to U.S. Army PFC David R. Gatton.

Gatton, whose home of entry was Harrold, enlisted in the U.S. Army and began his Vietnam tour of duty on September 11, 1966. His squad was in an ambush position on a road crossing near Phuoc Vinh when their patrol contacted a large enemy company. During the engagement, Gatton was fatally wounded by mortar fragments and died December 29, 1966.

For his service and sacrifice Gatton received many medals and citations. Among them, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with V device for Valor, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

