



U.S. NAVY  
HOSPITAL CORPSMAN  
SECOND CLASS  
CHARLES T. LANGENFELD

JULY 1, 2023

WATERTOWN, 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.

- Willow Creek Bridge on East US HWY 212, near Watertown, is dedicated to U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class Charles T. Langenfeld.

- Known to family and friends as Charlie or Chuck, Langenfeld was known to those serving with him in Vietnam as “Doc”. On April 17, 1968, after a 77-day siege, described as some of the worst fighting in the Vietnam conflict, a standdown was called. Having spent 77 days without a bath, Langenfeld and his troops left Hill 861a to bathe in a stream nearby. On their way back to their base camp, eight hours before Langenfeld was to leave for home, he was killed by enemy aerial mortar rounds.

- For his service and sacrifice, Langenfeld received many medals and citations. Among them the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

