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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Sergeant Fred H. Harms and Lieutenant Donald R. Harms

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Lieutenant Donald R. Harms and Sergeant Fred H. Harms.

The ceremony will be Saturday, June 29, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the Jelkin-Harms American Legion Post 142 in Tripp (102 S. Main Street).

The US 18 bridge three miles west of SD 37 will be dedicated to LT and SGT Harms.

On February 25, 1945, Fred was killed in action in battle near Einruhr, Germany.

On May 18, 1945, Donald was commanding his company on the battle line east of Manila. His company was holding a position near the top of a ridge when the enemy started a counterattack. Artillery and mortar fire were used to attempt to break the American position. The attack was repulsed, but Don was killed by flying shrapnel.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

“Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state,” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity for remembrance, reflection, and respect — for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life.”

“We can never underestimate, or over appreciate, the costs they bore for us,” said Whitlock. “We must never forget that our fallen sacrificed their future and their dreams. Their memories can only live through the accomplishments to present and future generations.”