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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private LeRoy Goosen

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Private LeRoy Goosen.

The ceremony will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 1:45 p.m. (CT) at the Sully Buttes High School in Onida (500 S. 8th Street).

This dedication is part of the Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program, which was launched during the Noem-Rhoden Administration and expanded under Governor Rhoden. In partnership with the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, this program creates visible and enduring tributes that connect communities to their history and remind future generations of the cost of freedom.

“It is an honor to recognize the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jeremiah Schneider. “The Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication program ensures their sacrifice is remembered every day. These dedications serve as lasting symbols of gratitude and respect, connecting our communities to the legacy of those who served.”

The SD HWY-1804 bridge over Okobojo Creek, south of Onida, will be dedicated as the PVT LeRoy Goosen Bridge.

PVT Goosen enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1952 and attended training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, with two other hometown boys. In July 1952, he was deployed to Korea, where he was assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, serving as a machine gunner. On October 8, 1952, during a heavy barrage of artillery, PVT Goosen was killed in action.

“As we honor their memory, we also reaffirm our commitment to support veterans and their families in every way possible,” continued Schneider. “Through these bridges, their stories remain a vital part of South Dakota’s heritage and a constant reminder of the freedoms we cherish.”