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FOR RELEASE: Friday, September 24, 2021

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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Air Force SGT William Christensen

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Air Force Combat Veteran Sergeant William Christensen.

The ceremony will be Monday, October 11, 2021, at 1 p.m. (CT) at American Legion Post No. 194 in Parkston (221 W. Main Street).

The South Dakota Pony Creek Bridge about a half mile west of the intersection with SD HWY 37, will be dedicated to SGT Christensen.

Christensen was killed in action April 8, 1944, when he left with two Army bombers in the 491st Bomb Squadron and 341st Bomb Group. They were attacked by seven Japanese planes off the southeast coast of Hainan in China.

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.

“Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see,” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memory lives on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state,” said Whitlock. “Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen will give us an opportunity of 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.”