SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army CPL Martin Fluegel

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony this month to honor U.S. Army Corporal Martin Fluegel.

The ceremony will be Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. (CT) at the McCook Central High School in Salem (200 E. Essex Avenue).

The West Fork of the Vermillion River Bridge on HWY 38 will be dedicated to CPL Fluegel.

Fluegel served during both World War II and the Korean War. During the Korean War, he was a member of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was taken prisoner of war while fighting the enemy in South Korea on February 4, 1951, and died while a prisoner on July 24, 1951.

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 memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state,” said Whitlock. “Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives 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.”

Note: (pronounced "FLU-gul")