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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private August E. Otto Jr.

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 Private August E. Otto, Jr.

The ceremony will be held Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. (CT) at the Claire City Community Hall in Claire City (255 Feeney Avenue).

The Little Minnesota River Bridge on SD HWY 106 will be dedicated to PVT Otto.

Otto was drafted into the Army in 1942 and sent overseas to the North American area of the Attu Islands (Aleutian Islands of Alaska). Otto was killed in action at Attu Island on May 18, 1943.

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.”

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