



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

POLICY: Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication

Policy DVA-13:

SDDVA

Last Revised: January 2026

Responsible Individual:

Deputy Secretary

Approved

Secretary

Effective Date:

1. APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to the South Dakota Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication (FHBD) Program and state-owned bridges under the jurisdiction of South Dakota for naming in honor of eligible fallen service members. This policy does not control, or limit separate memorial, bridge naming, or recognition programs administered by counties, municipalities, tribes, or private organizations.

2. PURPOSE: To dedicate state-owned bridges to South Dakotans who were killed in action or are classified as missing in action. The FHBD is administered through the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) and state partners.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

a. The honoree must have been:

- (1) Killed in action, or
- (2) Missing in action

b. Home of Record must have been South Dakota at the time of entry.

4. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

a. A Casualty Report or DD Form 214 must be provided confirming service and casualty status.

b. Supporting must be submitted that confirms Home of Record at the time of entry as South Dakota and must be attached to the application.

5. APPLICATION AND REVIEW:

a. A completed FHBD Application must be submitted with all supporting documents to the SDDVA.

b. Completed applications must be submitted by March 1st to be considered for dedication that calendar year. All applications received after March 1st won't be considered until at least the next year of dedication.

6. DENIAL:

a. Applications that do not meet the requirements will receive a written notification no later than 30 days after the application is received, with an explanation for denial.

b. If an application is denied, the applicant will receive information for the local County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer, who can help explore options for community-based recognition.