

CPL JOHN HUTCHISON

JULY 1, 2022

PRESHO, SD



On November 26, 2019, South Dakota launched the Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program. The program dedicates state bridges to South Dakota heroes who died while in active service, were a prisoner of war or were missing in action.

The White River Bridge on SD HWY 183, south of Presho, is dedicated to U.S. Marine Corporal John W. Hutchison.

Hutchison, an aerial gunner of a CH-46 helicopter, was participating in a troop extraction mission in South Vietnam, Quang Tri province. As the helicopter approached the landing zone, bombardment of the area by enemy artillery commenced. Hutchison's aircraft was hit by a very large caliber artillery shell and crashed to the ground and died on August 19, 1968.

For his service and sacrifice Hutchison received many medals and citations. Among them, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal.

