

Tommy Leon Callies

U.S. AIR FORCE CAPTAIN TOMMY L. CALLIES

NOVEMBER 11, 2022

HOWARD, 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 West Fork Vermillion River Bridge on HWY 34 is dedicated to U.S. Air Force Captain Tommy L. Callies.

On August 1, 1969, Captain Callies was commander of an F-4E aircraft on a strike mission. After releasing his bomb on target over South Vietnam, the aircraft continued in a straight line toward a hill and crashed into the upslope. Captain Callies was listed as Missing in Action for one year and then his status was changed to Killed in Action.

For his service...and sacrifice...Bridge received many medals and citations. Among them...the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, the Purple Heart, United States Aviator Badge Air Force, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

