

U.S. ARMY  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
GUNNAR D. BECKER

AUGUST 18, 2024

FORESTBURG, 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.

- SD34 westbound bridge over James River, just southeast of Forestburg, is dedicated to U.S. Army PFC Gunnar D. Becker.

- Gunnar was the first casualty of his unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the only one lost from Sanborn County since the Vietnam Conflict. He died January 13, 2005, in Mousul when a .50-caliber machine gun round was accidentally discharged, ricocheted, and struck him.

- For his service and sacrifice, Becker received many medals and citations. Among them were the Bronze Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, War on Terrorism Medal, and the Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal.

