



U.S. ARMY SERGEANT LELUND M. KAHLER

JULY 3, 2024

BELLE FOURCHE, 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 US 85 Bridge over the Belle Fourche River is dedicated to U.S. Army Sergeant Lelund M. Kahler.
- On April 8, 1969, Kahler was on a recon mission with his platoon crossing a river in sampans in Dinh Tuong, South Vietnam. Lelund, who was in the middle of the pack and carrying a M60 machine gun, was killed by enemy fire.
- For his service and sacrifice, Kahler received many medals and citations. Among them were the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the National Defense Service Medal.

