



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
1600 W. Russell Street Suite 415
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-204-9241
<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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For information, contact: DJ Montreal at 605.204.9241 or dj.montreal@state.sd.us, South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S.M.C. Sergeant Dirk R. Abbas

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S.M.C. Sergeant Dirk R. Abbas.

The ceremony will be on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (CT) at the Britton Area Event Center in Britton (1203 3rd Street).

This dedication is part of the Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program, which was launched during the Noem-Rhoden Administration and expanded under Governor Rhoden. In partnership with the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, this program creates visible and enduring tributes that connect communities to their history and remind future generations of the cost of freedom.

“It is an honor to recognize the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jeremiah Schneider. “The Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication program ensures their sacrifice is remembered every day. These dedications serve as lasting symbols of gratitude and respect, connecting our communities to the legacy of those who served.”

The SD HWY-27 bridge over Crow Creek, south of Britton, will be dedicated as the SGT Dirk R. Abbas Bridge.

SGT Abbas volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1951. At Camp Pendleton, California, he completed submarine training and was assigned to the U.S.S. Perch. After returning from Christmas, he was reassigned to Reconnaissance Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, where he would deploy to Korea. On October 6, 1952, SGT Abbas was killed in action by enemy artillery while his unit was conducting a night patrol.

“As we honor their memory, we also reaffirm our commitment to support veterans and their families in every way possible,” continued Schneider. “Through these bridges, their stories remain a vital part of South Dakota’s heritage and a constant reminder of the freedoms we cherish.”