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**SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private Elmer A. Albertson**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Private Elmer A. Albertson.

The ceremony will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. (MT) at the Harding County School Gymnasium in Buffalo (12474 Tipperary 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 US HWY 85 bridge over Bull Creek, north of Buffalo, will be dedicated as the PVT Elmer A. Albertson Bridge.

PVT Albertson enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1917 and served with the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division. Albertson fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive for 45 days before being wounded on November 11, 1918, Armistice Day. He died on November 15, 1918, from his wounds and was buried in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.

“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.”