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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private Frank J. Holcombe

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 Frank J. Holcombe.

The ceremony will be Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (CT) at The American Legion Post #43 in Centerville (921 Main 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 19A bridge over Vermillion River, about two miles south of Centerville, will be dedicated as the PVT Frank J. Holcombe Bridge.

PVT Frank J. Holcombe was one of Centerville's earliest volunteers in World War I, enlisting in September 1917 and serving with Company C of the National Guard's 147th Field Artillery. Frank was killed in action on August 3, 1918, in France, becoming the first Centerville soldier to die in the war. Initially buried in France, his remains were returned to the United States three years later and reinterred with full military honors at Riverview Cemetery in Centerville on August 14, 1921.

“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.”