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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Corporal Henry J. Kluess

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army Corporal Henry J. Kluess.

The ceremony will be on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (CT) at the VFW Post #2118 in Brookings (520 Main Ave).

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 14 bridge over Sixmile Creek, in Brookings, will be dedicated as the CPL Henry J. Kluess Bridge.

CPL Kluess served with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment during World War II. Enlisting in February 1943, he fought in the intense battles across northern France. On August 14, 1944, during the fierce fighting for control of Hill 366 in France, CPL Kluess was killed in action.

“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.”