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SD Bridge to be Dedicated in Honor of U.S. Army Private First-Class Mark Shields

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor U.S. Army PFC Mark Shields.

The ceremony will be Friday, August 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (CT) at the Community Center in Fort Thompson (1021 Central Circle).

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 SD50 bridge over Crow Creek, about twelve miles north of Chamberlain, will be dedicated as the PFC Mark Shields Bridge.

PFC Mark Shields was born on February 12, 1913, in South Dakota. PFC Shields answered the call to serve his country during the Korean War. Enlisting in the United States Army, he served with the 72nd Engineer Combat Battalion, attached to the 5th Infantry Regimental Combat Team. During the summer of 1950, PFC Shields and his unit were part of the United Nations (UN) forces defending the Pusan Perimeter. PFC Shields gave his life in the line of duty on August 16, 1950, in Chingong-Ni, South Korea.

“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.”