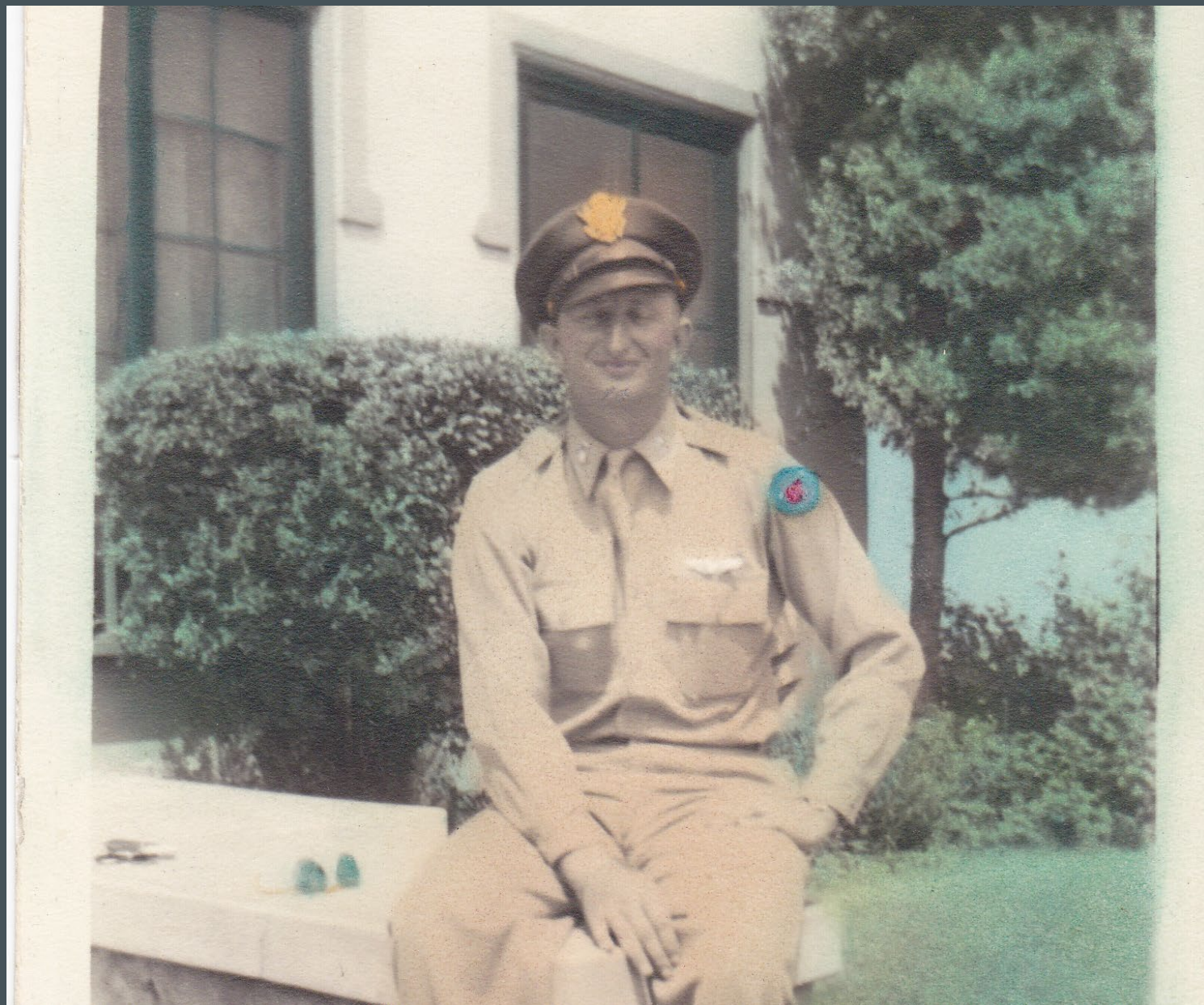

**CPT ELMER
RUSCH**

**OCTOBER 8,
2021**

BROOKINGS, SD





On November 26, 2019, South Dakota launched the Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program. The program dedicates state bridges to South Dakota heroes who died while in active service, were a prisoner of war or were missing in action.

The South Dakota HWY 14 Bypass Bridge over the east branch of Six Mile Creek, just west of Medary Avenue near Brookings, is dedicated to U.S. Army Air Corps CPT Elmer Rusch, of Raymond.

Rusch graduated from South Dakota State University in 1941 and was commissioned as an officer through their ROTC program. In June of 1944 he was stationed in England with the 101st Airborne Division and was part of the glider force participating in the D-Day invasion. He was killed in action when his glider landed in a field completely covered by German fire.

His family was posthumously presented the Purple Heart.

