

Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication Program
SGT Allen Kokesh Jr. Bridge – Yankton, SD
October 3, 2020



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 east bound James River Bridge on HWY 50 is dedicated to SGT Allen D. Kokesh, Jr., of Yankton, who died on February 7, 2006, from wounds sustained in combat on December 4, 2005, following a detonation of a roadside bomb in Baghdad. Kokesh was serving with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery unit based out of Yankton.

SGT Allen Dale Kokesh, Jr., age 21 of Yankton, died Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX from injuries sustained while serving his country in Baghdad, Iraq on December 4, 2005.

Memorial Services were held Sunday, February 12, 2006, at the Yankton High School Summit Activities Center Gymnasium. Funeral services were held Monday, February 13, 2006, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton. Kokesh is buried in the Garden of Memories in Yankton.

SGT Allen Dale Kokesh, Jr. was born on June 12, 1984 in Aschaffenburg, Germany. He returned to the United States in 1986. Allen was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church where he was baptized on May 15, 1994 and confirmed on May 7, 2000. Allen grew up and lived in Yankton all of his life. He attended Lincoln Elementary School. He participated in multiple sports starting at

a very young age, amassing too many trophies and medals to keep count and to keep on display. He was a member of the Yankton Bucks ESD Football Conference Champion Team, his junior and senior years. In 2002, his senior year he wore #30 jersey of the Yankton Bucks 11AA Championship Football Team. He was selected by his teammates as most valuable special team's player for that Championship game. His junior year, he was a member of the Yankton Bucks ESD Champion Wrestling Team. In 1998-1999, he was a member of the U-19 Boys State Tournament Runner Up Soccer Team. Allen worked at various restaurants in Yankton as well as for Kirby Hofer Construction and Jamie Mondragon Construction. Allen joined the National Guard his junior year of high school and in the summer of 2002 completed his split training program. His AIT training was completed the summer of his senior year in 2003. Both training programs were completed in Fort Sill, OK. Allen was a member of the Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery based out of Yankton, SD. Before his deployment, he was taking general courses at the University of South Dakota. Allen loved anything sport orientated, fishing, bowling, hanging with his friends and family, and especially going to his grandparents' farm.



Awards/Ribbons/Medals Kokesh Received:

- Bronze Star
- Purple Heart
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Combat Action Badge
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Medal
- Armed Forces Reserved Medal with two mobilization devices