

## South Dakota Medal of Honor Recipients

### Charles D. Roberts

***Rank and organization:***

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry.

***Place and date:***

At El Caney, Cuba

July 1, 1898

***Entered service at:***

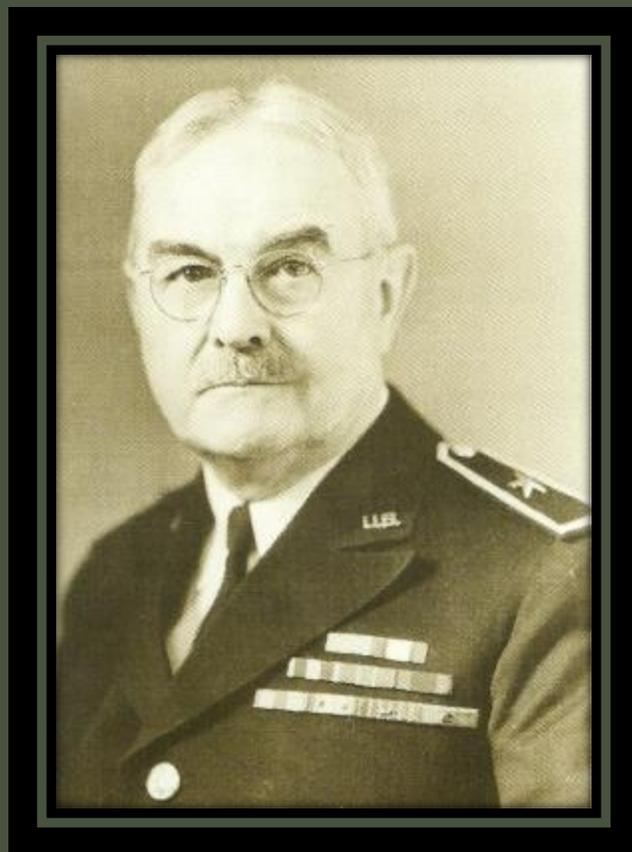
Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming

***Born:***

Cheyenne Agency, South Dakota

***Memorial Dedication:***

June 8, 2001 in Sturgis, South Dakota



***Citation:***

Charles distinguished himself during the Battle of El Caney on July 1, 1898, when he assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines under heavy fire of the enemy and was decorated with the Medal of Honor, the United States of America's highest and most prestigious personal military decoration for gallantry in combat. He later took part in the Siege of Santiago few days later. Following his return to the United States, Roberts was promoted to the temporary rank of Captain and attached to the 35th United States Volunteers. He subsequently sailed for the Philippines and took part in the combats in Northern Luzon during the Philippine–American War. While leading a six-man patrol on June 4, 1900 during Battle of Makahambus Hill, his unit was ambushed and decimated. Three men were killed and rest taken prisoner. Two wounded soldiers were released, but Roberts was kept in captivity. He was released after several months in captivity and returned to the United States. He returned to the United States and was attached to the Department of Texas, where he served as Judge Advocate under Brigadier general Frederick Dent Grant until he was transferred to the 7th Infantry Regiment with the regular rank of Captain. Roberts served with the regiment consecutively at Fort Missoula, Montana; Fort Wayne, Michigan and Fort William McKinley, Philippines until 1911, when he was ordered back to the United States. Upon his return stateside, Roberts graduated with honors from the Army School of the Line and from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He then served as an Instructor with Department of Military Art and Law there until early 1914, when he rejoined 7th Infantry Regiment. Roberts then participated in the United States occupation of Veracruz in April 1914 and following his promotion to Major, he was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone for service with 10th Infantry Regiment.

