

HB 1351

Nathan Hale famously stated that "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country". The sentiment, expressed by this quote has echoed and re-echoed in the hearts and lives of thousands upon thousands of Americans who have chosen to serve our country in the armed forces. The idea that liberty is more precious than life has reverberated in the call to defend the freedoms that we hold so dear. Thousands of American have given their lives to follow that call in fighting to preserve those freedoms. Since WWI over 3500 North Dakotas have died defending those principals.

This bill would create a lasting tribute to the sacrifices made by the fallen heroes from North Dakota and their families by bringing to light their selfless service to our country and ensuring their legacy is never forgotten. The naming of bridges after fallen soldiers is in practice by a host of states, such as Montana, South Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, and others. In 2017 Minnesota was considering passage of similar legislation. I was unable to verify if that legislation passed.

I will now give a short biography of PVT Albert Grass. Albert was from Cannon Ball and was a registered member of the Sioux Tribe on the Standing Rock Reservation. He was a private in the United States Army during WWI. He was assigned to the 164th Infantry and on July 18 1918 he lost his life posthumously earning the Silver Star December 31 1919. Upon his death he became the first Native American from Standing Rock.

For those not familiar with the military, The 164th Infantry Regiment began on 8 December 1906 in the ND Army National Guard. During WWII it became famous for its actions during Guadalcanal resisting the Japanese. The Silver Star is awarded for the gallantry and valor during battle