

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 Petty Officer Third Class Patrick G Glennon who paid the ultimate price on June 3, 1969. Patrick was born in Philadelphia on August 22, 1969. His family moved to Fessenden when he was younger. He graduated from Fessenden High school and joined the Navy on May 10, 1966. In 1968 he reported aboard the USS Frank E Evens DD754. On June 9, 1969, in the early morning hours, while preparing for flight operations in the South China. The Evans collided with the HMS Melbourne (an aircraft carrier) at 3am, and in less than 3 minutes the forward half of the ship sank taking 74 sailors to the bottom. ~~The bridge to be~~ The bridge to be dedicated in his memory is the over, the James River between Harvey and Fessenden. This location is near the family farm.

The North Dakota Veterans Legislative sees the fiscal impact as being minute the light of the sacrifice made by Petty Officer Third Class Patrick G Glennon and unanimously supports this bill, and requests passage of this bill.