

## HB 1355

*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 Ronald C Goodiron. Ronald was born on the Standing Rock Reservation on December 23, 1947. He joined the United State Marines on July 13, 1967. On February 28, 1967, his company was searching for the enemy when there were three rapid explosions killing 3 and wounding 4. LCPL Ronald C Good iron was one of the 3. Posthumously he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal for outstanding achievements in the field of civil affairs.