

TESTIMONY OF
COLONEL PAT FLANAGAN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2025
HOUSE BILL 1140

Chair Ruby and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1140, a measure to name a bridge in honor of Specialist Jon P. Fettig. My name is COL Pat Flanagan, Chief of Staff, North Dakota Army National Guard, and I am proud to represent the North Dakota Army National Guard in support of this meaningful legislation.

Specialist Jon P. Fettig was a soldier of exemplary character, a son of North Dakota, and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. On July 22, 2003, while serving as a volunteer with the North Dakota Army National Guard's 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Iraq, Specialist Fettig was killed in action. His selflessness, dedication to duty, and unwavering courage exemplify the highest ideals of military service. Naming a bridge in his honor is a fitting tribute to his legacy and a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of our Armed Forces.

The proposed naming of this bridge is not only a way to honor Specialist Fettig but also a means to inspire future generations. It will serve as a physical reminder of his service and sacrifice, prompting those who cross it to reflect on the cost of freedom and the valor of those who defend it. Specialist Fettig's story is one of courage and commitment—qualities that resonate deeply with the people of North Dakota and beyond.

Beyond his military service, Jon was a beloved son, brother, and friend. His loss was deeply felt by his family, his community, and his fellow Guardsmen. This bridge will not only honor his memory but also provide a place for his family and the community to reflect and remember. It is a way to ensure that Jon's sacrifice is never forgotten.

House Bill 1140 carries significant meaning for the North Dakota Army National Guard and the communities we serve. It underscores the bond between our state and its citizen-soldiers, acknowledging their contributions and sacrifices. Passing this bill will send a strong message of gratitude and respect to Specialist Fettig's family and all those who have worn the uniform.

In closing, I urge this committee to pass House Bill 1140 and allow the state of North Dakota to honor Specialist Jon P. Fettig in this enduring way. Let this bridge stand as a testament to his courage, his sacrifice, and the enduring values he upheld.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.