



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Dori Hauck

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**COMMITTEES:**  
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Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am Representative Dori Hauck, District 36 representing portions of Stark, Dunn and Morton counties. I am honored to bring you HB1173 and recognize Army Specialist Ferderer, Jr. for his service to this country.

Dennis James Federer, Jr., known as DJ to his family and friends, was born January 3, 1985 to Dennis and Claudina and grew up in New Salem on his family's dairy farm. Church and faith became a strong part of DJ's life. He served as an altar boy, played football, basketball, wrestling and was part of 4-H showing his heifer calves. DJ loved being in nature, hunting and planned to make a career within the military and then he would continue the family legacy taking over the farm when his parents were ready to retire.

Being in the Army was also a dream for DJ. His brother, John Baldwin, served in the US AirForce and deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. DJ enlisted in the United States Army during his senior year of high school with a goal to become an Army Ranger. He left for basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, a few days after walking across that graduation stage with his friends, the Class of 2003.

Army Specialist Dennis J. Ferderer, Jr. was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom with his unit the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division for a nine-month deployment. Specialist Ferderer was on convoy operations 60 miles north of Baghdad. On November 2, 2005, during those convoy operations in Duluiyah, Iraq, Army Specialist Ferderer was killed when enemy forces launched a grenade at his Humvee.

Army Specialist Dennis J. Ferderer, Jr., 20 years old is buried at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery and his service to his country will not be forgotten.

The bridge located on ND Highway 31 at the junction of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street north of the city of New Salem will recognize Specialist Ferderer's commitment to freedom and military service.

Thank you, Chairman Clemens and Transportation Committee for your time to hear about the life of Dennis "DJ" Ferderer, Jr. and I ask for your support of HB1173.