

**2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 1173**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1173  
1/16/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on state highway 31 north of New Salem as the Specialist Dennis Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

9:35 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Ruby, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz  
Members Absent: Vice Chair Grueneich

### Discussion Topics:

- The life and service of Specialist Dennis Ferderer Jr.
- Mention of DJ in place of alongside of full name

9:36 a.m. Representative Hauk, District 36, introduced the bill and provided testimony #28881.

9:39 a.m. Jim Nelson, Director, ND Veterans Legislative Council, testified in favor.

9:40 a.m. John Ferderer, brother of Specialist Dennis Ferderer Jr., testified in favor.

9:48 a.m. Wade Swenson, Office of Operations Director, NDDOT, testified neutral.

9:49 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed hearing.

9:50 a.m. Representative Frelich moved to adopt amendment LC #25.0869.01001.

9:50 a.m. Representative Koppelman seconded the motion.

9:51 a.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

9:51 a.m. Representative Frelich moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:51 a.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	AB
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y

Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

9:53 a.m. Motion passed 13-0-1.

9:45 a.m. Representative Dressler will carry the bill.

9:54 a.m. Mr. Fettig stood to thank the committee members for the consideration for the designation of the Specialist Jon P. Fettig Bridge.

**Additional written testimony:**

Lonnie Wangen, ND Department of Veteran's Affairs, submitted testimony in favor #29415.

Travis Bateman, US Army Combat Veteran, submitted testimony #29434 in favor.

9:54 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

January 16, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1173**

Introduced by

Representative Hauck

*1-16-25*  
*1 of 1*

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to designating the bridge on state highway 31 north of New Salem as  
3 the Specialist Dennis "DJ" Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Specialist Dennis "DJ" Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge - State highway 31 - Continuing**  
8 **appropriation.**

9 The department shall designate the bridge on state highway 31 north of New Salem  
10 between the junction of thirty-third street and the junction of thirty-second street as the  
11 Specialist Dennis "DJ" Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge and shall place signs along the highway  
12 designating that name. The department may accept any appropriate signs or funds donated to  
13 the department for the placement of signs. Any donated funds are appropriated to the  
14 department on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing signs designating the bridge on  
15 state highway 31 as the Specialist Dennis "DJ" Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1173**

**Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0869.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1173 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Representative Dori Hauck, District 36  
2461 81<sup>st</sup> Ave SW, Hebron ND 58638  
dorihauck@ndlegis.gov

January 13, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of the House 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 Ruby and Transportation Committee for your time to hear about the life of Dennis J. Ferderer, Jr. and I ask for your support of HB1173.

HB 1173

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/16/2025

**House Transportation Committee  
69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
Representative Ruby-Chair**

Chairman Ruby and House Transportation Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1173.

Intent of this bill...

- Provide lasting recognition and appreciation to the North Dakota Service Men and Women who have died for our Country in time of war.
- Specialist Dennis Federer Jr. Killed Nov. 2 when enemy forces threw a hand grenade at his Humvee during convoy operations in Duluiyah, Iraq while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division . Spc. Ferderer was the son of Dennis Sr. and Claudina Ferderer, and had one brother. He began his Army career after graduating from New Salem High School in 2003.
  - Name included on the Global war on terrorism memorial outside Fraine Barracks.



Need for bill...

- Keep their memory alive.
- Recognition to the family and friends they left behind.
- Community involvement in the process.

I support this bill and encourage the ND 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to allow all bridges in ND be named after a Fallen ND Service Man or Woman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

1/15/2025

To: North Dakota Legislature-69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

From: Travis Bateman

Re: IN FAVOR to HB 1173

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Greetings,

I send this written testimony to you in favor to HB 1173.

The designation of the bridge on North Dakota Highway 31 that spans Sweet Briar Creek north of New Salem is a fitting honor to our fallen US Army soldier, Specialist Dennis James Federer, Jr.

My family is from New Salem, and I grew up there and can attest that New Salem is one of those small US towns that absolutely love, care about, and cherish their military veterans.

I did not have the honor or privilege of personally knowing DJ Federer but being a fellow combat veteran myself and having served in Iraq and making it home from two tours and having lost fellow service members, "I knew him". All of us that serve and don the uniform do. There is not enough that we can ever do to honor and remember those that have given their lives in service to our fellow man.

In designating this bridge in honor and memory of SPC DJ Federer and his sacrifice, you are helping in keep his memory alive for us all. Every person that travels that highway and reads that sign with his name will be helping to have a part in the motto "A hero remembered, never dies."

This is one more small, but meaningful designation and it is deeply appreciated by the veteran community that you would bestow this upon our fallen veterans.

Please give HB 1173 a DO PASS.

Thank you,

Travis Bateman  
Watford City, ND



**2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 1173**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1173  
2/21/2025

Relating to designating the bridge on state highway 31 north of New Salem as the Specialist Dennis "DJ" Ferderer Jr. Iraq bridge; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

9:31 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

### Discussion Topics:

- Background on Dennis Ferderer Jr.

9:31 a.m. Representative Hauck, District 36, introduced HB 1173, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38302.

9:34 a.m. Nathan Huntington, Lobbyist, American Legion Department of ND, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38303.

9:37 a.m. John Ferderer testified in favor.

9:41 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

9:41 a.m. Senator Rummel moved a Do Pass.

9:41 a.m. Senator Klein seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Rummel will carry the bill.

9:44 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

*Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1173 ([25.0869.02000](#))**

**Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1173 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Dori Hauck

District 36  
2461 81st Avenue SW  
Hebron, ND 58638-9510  
[dorihauk@ndlegis.gov](mailto:dorihauk@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Education  
Agriculture (Vice Chair)

February 21, 2025

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.

SPECIALIST DENNIS J. FERDERER  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
JANUARY 1985-NOVEMBER 2005  
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM



Dennis enlisted in the United States Army during his senior year and left for training at Fort Benning, Georgia, just a few days after graduation. His goal was to become an Army Ranger. On November 2 2005, Dennis was with the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and lost his life when a Humvee he was in was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade during operations in Duluiyah. Dennis is resting in the ND Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan ND