

I would like to thank the Committee Chair and members of the committee for getting us to the point we're at now. I would also like to thank Senator Larry Alley and Representative Keyle Hoffman for their guidance.

Monte Forrest was a representation of the unsung hero's of the Midwest who loved their country and gave the ultimate sacrifice for it.

Monte's uncles served in the Navy while Monte and his brother Marlan served in the Army.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1970 Monte manned a howitzer and was able to fire illumination rounds so American troops could better see the enemy. He was shot off the howitzer by enemy fire but managed to reman it and continue to fire illumination rounds. He was knocked off the howitzer a second time but once again, remanned his gun and continued to try and illuminate the area.

For his heroic actions and bravery Monte was posthumously awarded the Silver Stare medal of value and the Purple heart.

This bridge not only will honor Monte but hopefully will remind Kansans that drive across it of the many sacrifices the brave men and women of our nation have made to keep our country great.