

Office of Representative James E. Vallee
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**VALLEE FILES BILL TO NAME FRANKLIN MEMORIAL RINK AFTER
SERGEANT PIRELLI**

BOSTON – State Representative James E. Vallee (*D – Franklin*) today announced he has filed a bill to re-name Franklin’s Veterans Memorial Rink in memory of Army Staff Sergeant Robert “Rob” Pirelli, a courageous Franklin native who lost his life while serving our country in Iraq.

“The naming of the rink will honor Rob’s memory and will serve as a reminder of his bravery and commitment to our country,” Vallee said.

The 29-year-old Green Beret lost his life in the Diyala Province of Iraq on August 15 after a gun battle. Pirelli joined the Army in 2003 after graduating from Franklin High School and Northeastern University with a degree in criminal justice. Family and friends described Pirelli as a standout member of the Franklin High Panthers hockey team who played right wing for three seasons before graduating in 1996. His teammates voted him the Most Improved Player his junior year and the Panthers’ Unsung Hero his senior year.

“Rob’s passion for the ice and his remarkable commitment to our country make this bill a fitting tribute to a true hero,” Vallee said. “The rink will be a lasting presence in the town, as will Rob’s memory.” The bill calls for the rink to be named the “Staff Sergeant Robert Pirelli Veterans Memorial Rink”, maintaining the memory of all other veterans.

In addition to his duties as a legislator, Vallee also serves as a Major and Assistant Judge Advocate in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Vallee filed the bill early this week, and it now awaits action from the House and Senate when each chamber returns from the summer recess.

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