

# North Adams Transcript

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## Barrett pushes for rink rename

### City seeks to honor sole city soldier to fall in Vietnam

By Scott Stafford  
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**NORTH ADAMS** — It was February 1968 when Army Sgt. Peter W. Foote, 21, was leading his patrol, involved in heavy combat, down a trail near the village of Tuy Hoa on the Vietnamese coast of the South

China Sea when he noticed an injured comrade trying to crawl back to friendly lines.

Foote advanced to the wounded soldier, suffering a severe leg wound along the way, to try to move him back behind the firing line.

Dragging his wounded friend to safety, Foote attempted to give him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. While he was putting the injured man behind cover, a sniper shot Foote in the head, according to his little sister,

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Eagle file

The city of North Adams is considering renaming the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink in honor of Peter W. Foote, a local soldier who died in the Vietnam War.

## North Adams looks to rename skating rink

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Paula Geary, of Stephentown, N.Y. The soldier he was trying to rescue survived.

The only son of North Adams to die in Vietnam, his death brought the war home for the small city — especially given the fact that he had been a prominent Drury High School athlete known regionally for his prowess in baseball, football and basketball.

Geary remembers the funeral procession for her brother stretched for miles.

“It seemed like everyone in the county was there,” she said. “The reaction of the town was unbelievable. There were miles of people

there to give him their final wishes.”

Now, 40 years after Foote’s death, North Adams Mayor John Barrett III is seeking to have legislation introduced that will rename the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink in honor of the fallen athlete.

The rink, which was built in 1969, was renovated during the past year at a cost of \$1.8 million in state funding, Barrett said.

“He received the Silver Star posthumously, but by doing what he did, it cost him his life,” Barrett said. “And the skating rink is a city-run facility now, and it would just be nice to honor him — in the prime of his life, he was lost fighting that war.”