

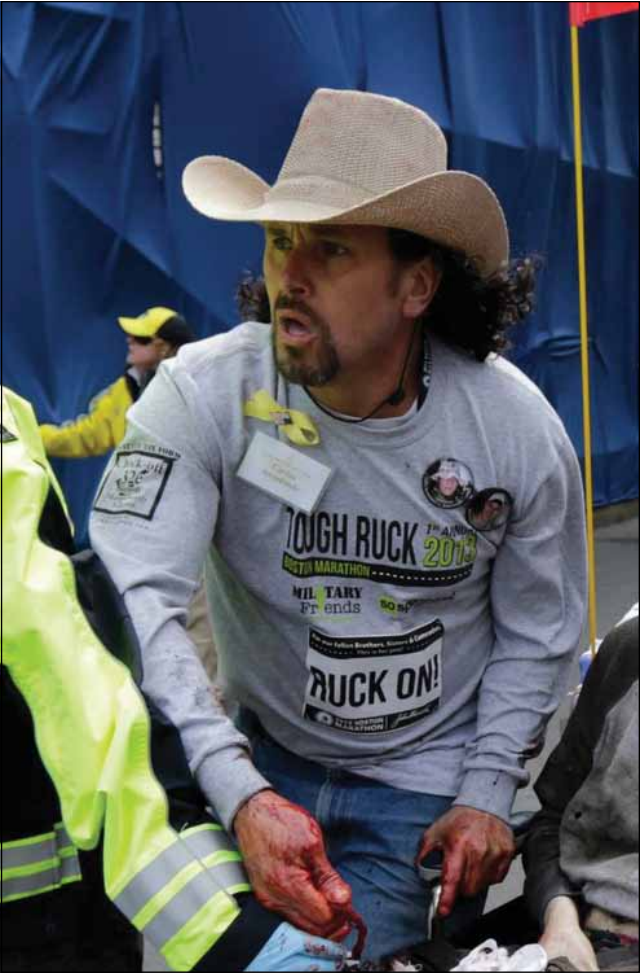
“Citizen Hero”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

Carlos Arrendondo has become a timely symbol of the selfless response of American Patriots who were the first to respond to the Marathon bombing. No stranger to grief, Arrendondo made international news when he set himself on fire after being informed of his son’s death in Iraq in 2004. He then lost another son to drugs in 2011.

Arrendono has become active in Veterans issues and was at the finish line in Boston to greet National Guardsmen running to raise awareness of Veterans and to honor our fallen military. Wearing a cowboy hat, he was captured in scenes tearing down barricades to reach the wounded all while clutching an American flag he had been holding. He later was able to help extricate and transport in a wheelchair a victim who had lost

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This
Week’s
Poll
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South Boston Today



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Public Safety Critical To Our Quality Of Life

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

If the Marathon Day attack tells us anything, it is that the comfort of being and feeling safe is the most fundamental protection that our government has a duty to insure at the highest level possible and at all costs. Knowing that street violence, terror, arson, and drug dealing will be met the swiftest of pursuit and the certainty of punishment is critical to the enjoyment of our liberties as Americans. This became evident on Patriots Day 2013.

The senselessness of the attack, whether it is rooted in a political

agenda or a criminal mind, or the work of a mentally insane person, is no more a scourge on humanity than the violence on our streets. Our local and state public safety professionals, police, fire, EMT services, our military, as well as the federal agencies that investigate, monitor and protect our shores from foreign enemies, must have the resources to not only swiftly pursue, but as importantly, to maintain vigilance on a daily basis.

The breaking of dawn and the comfortingsilenceofanearlymorning

jog bring a sense of contentment or peace that many countries around the globe do not have. Nonetheless, as we learned at Pearl Harbor and again on 9/11, an eerie and alien experience can come upon us and shattered our nation and our peace. That terrible silence returned April 15, when the viciousness of murder, again, replaced our feeling of being safe with our fear of being vulnerable. The need to lash out, and the restraint we must command to keep from doing so, frustrates us all. The democratic system we defend will take care of that, we are sure.

For now, we at South Boston

Today, share our prayers and thoughts with our readers and the millions throughout the world for the victims and families who are suffering because of this despicable, cowardly act. We are all suffering.



"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." - Winston Churchill

Last week's poll results:

South Boston Today is proud of our readers affirmative response to the following veterans services question in last week's poll. 94% of you felt that veterans services should be increased.

Last week's poll asked: With all the talk of sequestration and budget cuts, should Veterans services be on the table in any of the President's or Congress's negotiations?

Should Veterans' Services:

- A) Be cut 1%
- B) Remain the same 5%
- C) Be increased 94%

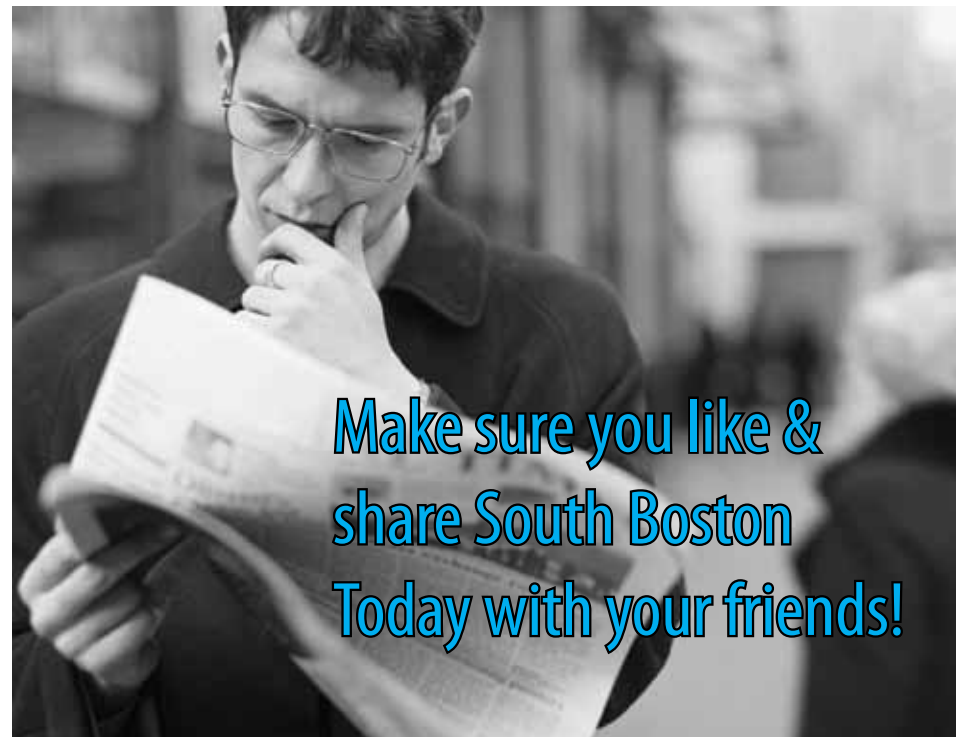
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The Information Center



Let The Professionals Handle It

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

You certainly don't need me to tell you that there was a terrorist attack in Boston last Monday. But the way the media keeps running the same things over and over again, it seems they think you still don't know about it by this time. That attack was violent and brutal and reminded us all once again that those who hate the way of life in America are still out to tear it down. For these crazies, if they have to kill children in the process, so much the better. This is something we all have been reminded of.

With the nonstop repetitive news reporting, many people have just stopped watching it on TV. The reason is not because people don't care about what happened – they do. But it gets a bit sickening when we have to listen to all the guessing and speculation being put forth, in many cases, by people who really do not know what they are talking about. They just love being on the news to give their opinions about who did it, why it was done and what will happen next.

The way most folks seem to feel now is that when definitive answers, the facts or new confirmed details are given, we'll listen. But to the babblers, whose guesses are no better than anyone else's, please, sit down, shut up and leave the investigative work to the professionals. To the media, just put people on

camera who have some real data and updates based in truth and fact. All the rest is a jumbled droning sound that does not help the situation one bit. And by all means, these reporters should stop shoving microphones in the faces of grieving family members to find out how they feel.

Ok, what we do know is that bad, evil people did this. What should happen, at least as far as most Americans are concerned, is they need to be caught, all of them and made to pay dearly for what they did. They need to be made an example of. If that means they become martyrs, so be it. It doesn't matter what their cause is, they need to go down. Many believe in the death penalty. For a crime like this, I sure do. What would really be infuriating is when the animals are caught, found guilty and convicted, they are treated with understanding, compassion and given all the benefits of a kind hearted judicial system including expensive liberal lawyers, comfortable cells, and other taxpayer funded goodies. Heck, in Massachusetts, convicted murderers are allowed to get sex change operations on the taxpayer's dime. Will these bombers be given complimentary manicures and hot tubs in their cells?

I have a close friend who is a member of law enforcement. He was at the scene when the bombs

went off. In fact, if he was a half block closer, he could have been killed himself. As long as I've known this guy, he stays calm under pressure and has that ability to not let things get him flustered. This really got to him. It's an experience he'll never forget. And like all the other fantastic first responders on the scene that day, shaken or not, they went right into action, took control and got the crowds to safety. These are good people and incredible public servants. And though it's been said a zillion times since Monday's attack, we are very, VERY lucky to have them all. God Bless them.

It's a natural thing, and it probably can't be helped that after going so long since the last big attack on American soil, the danger fades from mind and we relax our guard. Security

becomes less tight as years pass; whether because of budget cuts or a lower sense of urgency. As we always learn, this can be costly to the safety of the public. The America haters, the crazies and those who enjoy causing others to suffer are always going to be out there. They watch and they wait for the right time to strike. They are patient and they know that authorities cannot maintain high alert forever. And that's why there is much to be said for the insistence of most Americans citizens to be able to possess the means to protect themselves and their families because our police and our military, as magnificent as they are, cannot be everywhere all the time.

It's times like this that the compassion that most of us have

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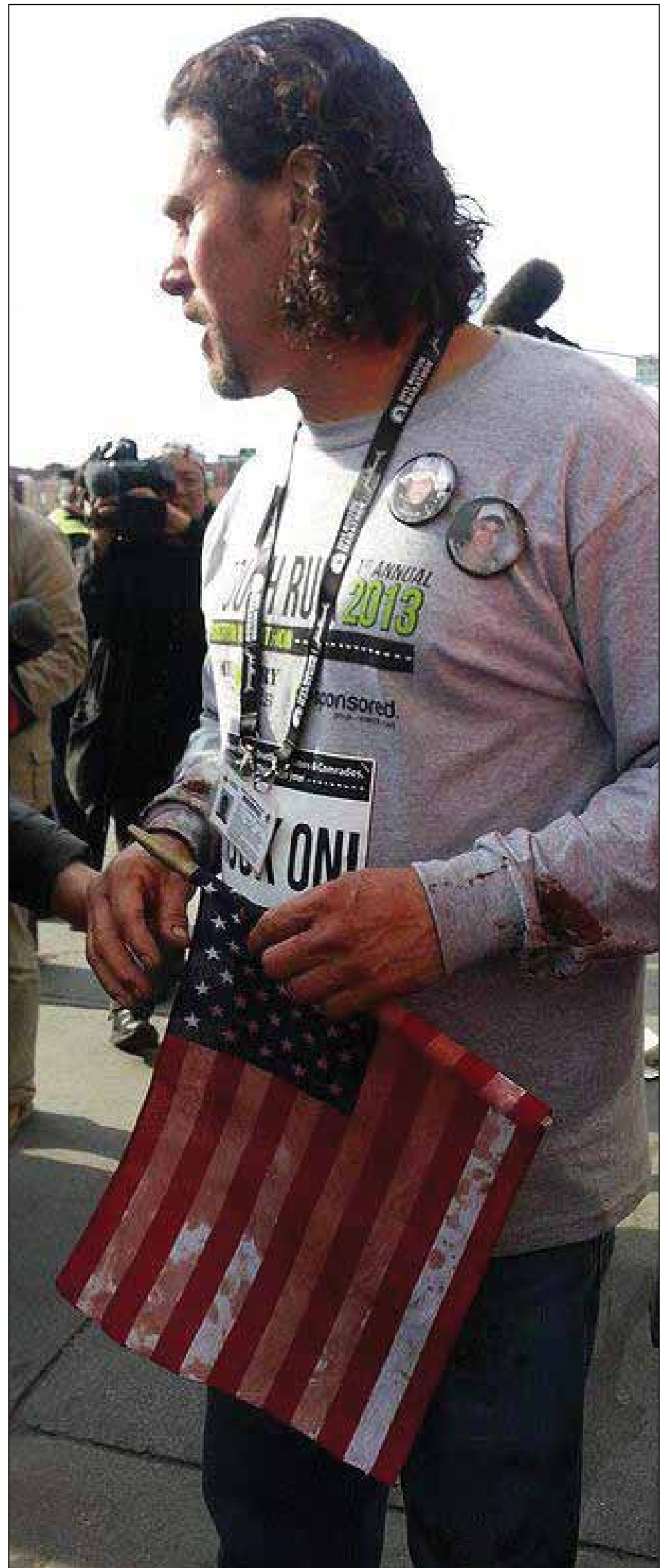
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4/25 - 6:35pm

Red Sox vs Royals
4/19 - 7:10pm
4/20 - 1:10pm
4/21 - 1:35pm

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“Tough Ruck” Team Springs Into Action at Marathon Bombing Attacks

BOSTON – April 15 2013/At 5:30am on Monday, twenty Soldiers lead by 1LT Steve Fiola of Fitchburg began the 26.2 mile “Tough Ruck” to honor comrades killed in Iraq and Afghanistan or lost to suicide and PTSD-related accidents after coming home. The “Tough Ruck”, a charity march benefitting the Military Friends Foundation – a nonprofit serving Massachusetts military families and families of the fallen – followed the course of the Boston Marathon and ended on Boylston Street where the Ruckers met with Carlos Arredondo, Tough Ruck volunteer and father of LCPL Alexander Arredondo who was killed in Iraq in 2004. Moments after Carlos greeted the Ruckers, bombs exploded nearby and Carlos and the Ruckers raced to assist the wounded. They embody the best of our military community and are why we do what we do. For more information about how you can support the Tough Ruck mission, visit www.militaryfriends.org/tough-ruck.





Reading Between The Lines

“Senseless”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com

“Tomorrow is promised to no one” is an expression I’ve used on more than one occasion. Usually, when someone tells me that so and so was planning a trip or was about to retire and died unexpectedly. As if there is an “expected” time. Perhaps when you’re in your 90’s or affected by some terrible disease.

But it becomes a pretty trite or simple or empty expression when you’re talking about an eight year old boy who simply went with mom and dad and sis on a sunny day to watch a parade. Sure, no bands or floats but the atmosphere and the effect are the same. Smiles, joy, laughter and family - all gone in an instant of hate. A distracted texting driver, an after prom crash, leave us shaking our heads at the waste, futility and preventability of it all. No matter how unthinking, those acts were not intentional. This was blind hatred. A blindness that can claim any of us, at any time.

My wife, shaken as she was, reacted calmly next to me. I was shaking enough for both of us.

The blast happened at 2:50. At 2:37 my wife got off the bus in front of the old police headquarters on Berkeley about 2 blocks from Boylston Street.

Because of the steel barriers she had to walk past Arlington Street to cross Boylston to get to her afternoon job on Newbury Street. She was a block away when the crowd began running in her direction, crying and screaming with a collapsing woman, in a horrified tone, talking of “limbs and bodies in the air”. She went to work a little early to take in some of the festive air at the race near the

finish line. A block away yet she was no more aware or expecting than any of the victims or any of us.

Sadly this killer is probably one of us. Someone who has lived among us, probably for years. True at this writing we do not know who or why.

It could be mid east. It could be that nut in Korea celebrating his grandfather’s 101st birthday and this is his idea of a celebration.

Instead though, the feeling in this space is that it’s a demented product of our society. A society that seems to celebrate the “bad boys” of our culture and only pay lip service to the “goodies”. Both sides left and right seem to elevate the darker side of our nature.

In his deranged mind this weasel is some self styled “freedom

fighter”. Freedom from an eight year old boy? A ten year old girl? A mother, father, grandparent holding a balloon, a pennant, a cardboard sign, an ice cream cone? A wife on the way to work? Freedom carries responsibility. If you want you are free to carry hate in your heart, but in the end you are alone. You can put hate in your words but in the end most will shun you. If you truly believe in freedom and tomorrow is promised to no one. Who are you to take that tomorrow? To take that freedom?

Recently our neighbor, Ed Flynn wrote a story of his duty and visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the Navy.

His response was a hate filled email from one of our own

South Boston residents who felt Eddie Flynn should be tried as a war criminal for his service to his country. This is the same deranged mentality that inspires and encourages these murderous “Freedom Fighters” America gives people like this freedom. And they use that freedom to hate America. Freedom thankfully belongs to all of us.

God bless all those cops, fire, EMTs and most especially ordinary citizens who disregarded the danger within seconds had ripped down the steel barriers and were aiding the victims. They are truly freedom’s heroes.

Say a prayer of thanks for them and one of comfort and solace to the victims.

Take care till next week.



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Boston's Marathon in Seconds Turns to Madness

I was standing on the photo bridge overlooking the finish line of the Boston Marathon taking pictures with my cell phone. Having run the race 5 times it was such a treat to be above it all. As I descended the bridge stairs, heading to meet friends at Abe and Louie's, a powerful blast went off. At first I thought it was a dozen muskets of a Patriot reenactment, but the crowd noise did not subside, but began to grow and the high pitch of screams were apparent, and our beautiful Boston day turned bad, very bad. From my location, I heard a second blast, shaking everybody's psyche and panic set in, non-runners began to run, push and shove. First responders were there in mass, and moved to those hurt, fleeing spectators started to crash the course behind the finish line, what seemed to be the beginning of a stampede, but fortunately race officials and BAA volunteers trained in crowd control steered the masses to the proper exits and calmed folks down. This horrific day, I am afraid, could have been even worse, if not for all who helped.

I, along with several of my colleagues, were asked to leave the area for our safety so as to let the first responders do their work. Within minutes, additional ambulances, police and firefighters were entering the Marathon venue on Boylston Street from Dartmouth, to treat the injured and lock down the area. The response was amazing both in speed and in abundance.

I want to recognize all the Police, Firefighters, EMS and BAA volunteers who heroically tended to the injured, secured the scene, and kept everyone calm to disperse the crowd without further injury, all while the threat of further explosions was still uncertain. In the face of uncertain danger, these professionals and volunteers reacted immediately. Their preparation and quick reactions saved lives that day. Many of the first responders on site at that moment were police, EMS, firefighters and race volunteers who are also our neighbors and friends.

My deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of those who lost their lives. My prayers go out to all those injured in the blast, and I wish them a most speedy recovery. Today, sadness has set in now that we are dealing with the aftermath of such a terrible day in Boston's history. I forwarded my photos to the authorities and hope if you were there you will do the same.

Many of our neighbors and friends were in the spectator stands and along the route from the finish line back to areas close to the blasts and potentially could have seen something important or troublesome. If you have information or need some counseling or assistance please call my office.

Bill Linehan

Boston City Councilor (617-635-3203)

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“State Senate Candidates Forum Rescheduled”

The Candidates Forum featuring the State Senate candidates scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th was cancelled due to the murderous attack at the Marathon. All three candidates agreed, as did all the associated community organizations, that all focus, at present should be on this week's sad incident.

The Candidates Forum has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 25th at 6:30 p.m. at The Lithuanian Club 368 West Broadway.

This Week's Poll

This Week's Poll

In light of the heightened security needed in the wake of the marathon tragedy – how long do you think increased law enforcement should be present in our city?

A Week

A Month

A Year

Indefinitely



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.
www.southbostontoday.com

A Public Safety Message From Rep. Nick Collins

Dear Neighbors,

Our neighborhoods, city and state are taking time to grieve, to heal and to unite together after the tragedy of the Patriots' Day Marathon bombing. As State Representative, providing useful information is an important responsibility. The city, state and federal government is working together as the City of Boston moves forward.

Please refer to the resources listed below in the event you have questions or concerns. Of special note, security has been upgraded on the MBTA and at Logan Airport.

IMPORTANT RESOURCE INFORMATION:

The City of Boston has opened a Resource and Information Center at the Castle at Park Plaza, located at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Arlington Street, where:

- Members of the public can come in for information on counseling services.
- Displaced residents can receive information on sheltering services.
- Runners can pick up their belongings that were left behind.
- Runners can re-connect with friends and family.

Resources for families trying to reach loved ones:

Call the Mayor's Hotline 617-635-4500

Red Cross Safe and Well - 1-800-REDCROSS or redcross.org/safeandwell

Person Finder - Boston Marathon

For crisis counseling:

Call 1-800-985-5990

Visit the American Red Cross website

Traffic and Commuter Information:

MBTA Service resumed a normal schedule (April 16); however, Copley Station remains closed.

Expect delays and increased law enforcement presence throughout the city and the transit system.

Mass Pike (I-90) Exit 22 - Copley Square exit ramp remains closed.

A crime scene perimeter has been established in Back Bay.

If you have any photos or knowledge of the events or persons involved, please contact the Boston Crime Tips Hotline at 1-800-494-TIPS or the FBI Tip Line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (Prompt #3).

For more information, visit the City of Boston website and be sure to follow organizations listed below on Twitter for real-time updates:

Boston Police - @Boston_Police

Massachusetts State Police - @MassStatePolice

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency - @MassEMA

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick - @MassGovernor

City of Boston Emergency Notifications and Alerts - @AlertBoston

City of Boston Office of Constituent Engagement - @NotifyBoston

MBTA - @mbtaGM

And utilize the hashtags #BostonMarathon or #BostonHelp to join the Twitter conversation with any information or offers of assistance.

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6	\$76,650

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Applications may be picked up in person

n Lobby of 11 West Broadway, S. Boston MA :

4/25 3pm-7pm 4/26 12pm-2pm 4/27 10am-2pm

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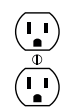
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Ciccione...CONTINUED FROM page 3

inside of us is tested. A few days before this most recent attack, it was being reported that the terrorist prisoners at Gitmo were rioting and protesting. These are people who would jump for joy at the news of what happened to our people last Monday. The American troops guarding them responded with the necessary force to control the situation. Good! One tactic that these avowed America hating prisoners used as a protest was to go on a hunger strike. The way I see it, if they want to go on a hunger strike, don't try to stop them. Let them starve. If we haven't learned by now that to show enemies like this any compassion at all is considered by them as weakness and encourages more attacks. We need to play as rough as our adversaries. If it means stooping to their level of savagery to win, well, we need to do what it takes.

Note: Talk back to John Ciccione by email at jciccione@southbostontoday.com

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141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 1008 Condo	\$890,000	4/5/13	5	2.5	1874
354 K Street Single Family	\$685,000	4/9/13	7	2	2055
335 West Second St UNIT 23 Condo	\$515,000	4/11/13	4	2	1020
346 Congress St UNIT 508 Condo	\$480,000	4/12/13	1	1	681
18-20 Knowlton St UNIT 5 Condo	\$439,000	4/4/13	4	2	1043
29 Vinton St UNIT 2 Condo	\$439,000	4/12/13	4	2	1190
289 West Second St UNIT 3 Condo	\$410,500	4/5/13	4	1	730
110 N St UNIT 2 Condo	\$395,000	4/16/13	4	1	657
58 Gates St UNIT 3 Condo	\$332,000	4/10/13	4	1	698
202 West Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$329,000	4/12/13	3	2	1000
7 Thomas Park UNIT 8 Condo	\$262,000	4/16/13	3	1	526
104 D St UNIT 2 Condo	\$259,000	4/12/13	3	1	500

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Reflection on Our Marathon

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

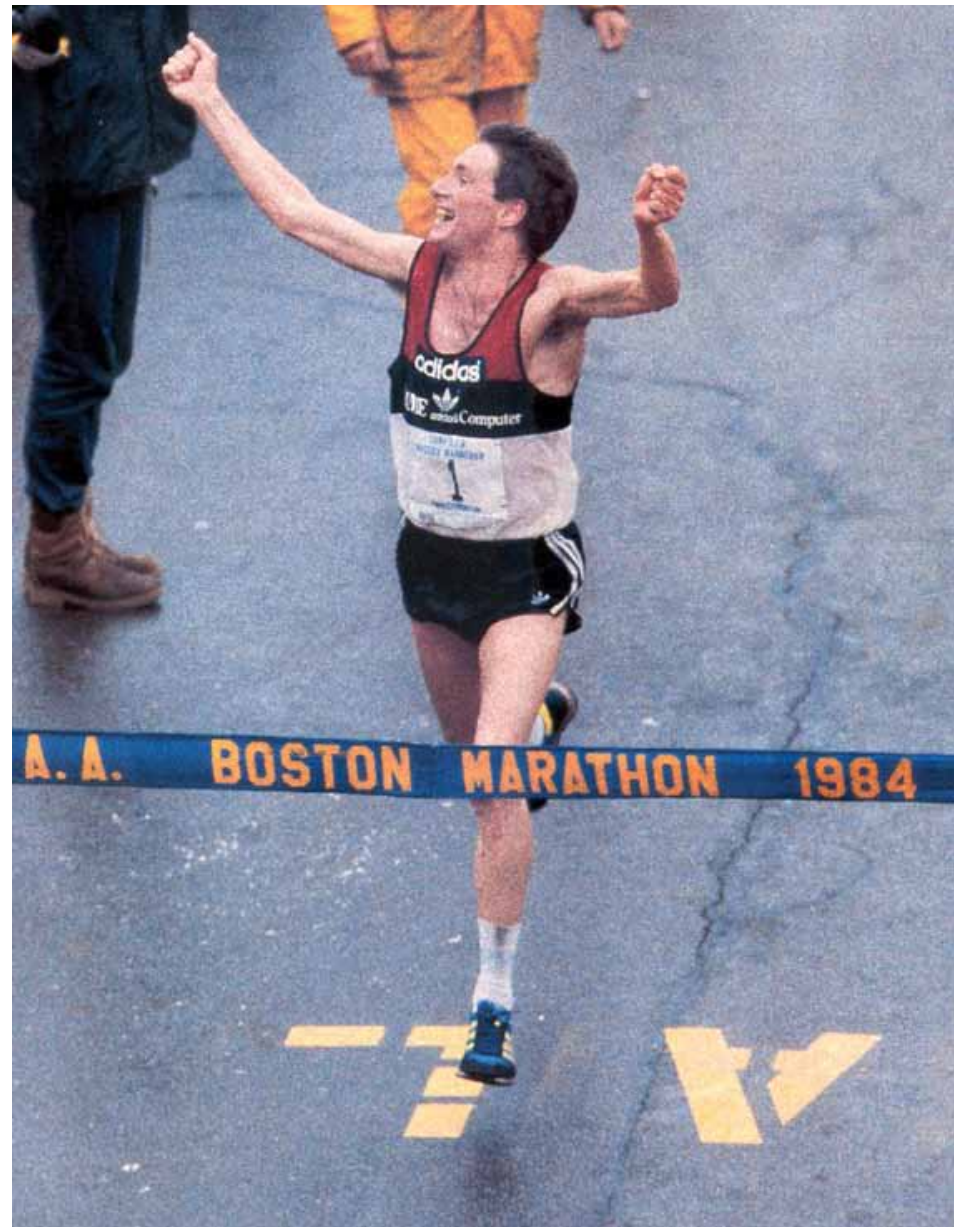
Guest Contributor Ray Flynn - Patriots Day 2013

At the Boston Marathon on Monday, I was talking with Geoff Smith, the winner of the marathon in 1984 and 1985 and talking about it being “Boston’s greatest day.” It brought out the best in our city. People of good will, “Spring in the air, young people and the beginning of something new and special,” I remember saying. I shared with him an article I just wrote about the importance of this day in Boston and America. My wife and I walked around the area of the finish line for a few hours talking to the many spectators, volunteers and police before and during the marathon. For me, that was always the best part of the day. The joy of knowing we were someplace special with people who had a love for Boston and sports. “It doesn’t get any better than this,” I would tell everyone. I saw the look of excitement and joy on the faces of my grandchildren and all the children who were so happy to be at the finish line cheering all the runners.

Well all that was temporarily

shattered on Monday with this cowardly act of terrorism. But this horrendous act of senseless violence must serve as a wakeup call for all citizens. Hate and violence exists in society today and we must never forget that. Political speeches will not stop this violence, but vigilance and determination by patriotic American’s will. We don’t want a police state, but we do want strong enforcement of all our laws to protect the law abiding people of our country.

I still stand by my comments that I made on Patriots Day at the Boston Marathon that this is “Boston’s greatest event and day,” and no cowardly terrorist act of violence will ever change that. Too many people have sacrificed and fought and died for our way of life and we owe it to them, our children and future generations to say on this sad and tragic day that we are more determined to make Boston and America a stronger and safer city and country. This must be our highest priority as Americans.



Memories Of A Marathoner

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Guest Contributor Ray Flynn - Patriots Day 2013

American History and the Boston Marathon, all on one day? It doesn’t get any better than that. Tourists from all over the world came to Boston to be part of this exciting day. A healthy walk along the Freedom Trail and over to the Prudential to see the end of the world’s second most celebrated marathon, only after the Olympic Marathon.

No it was not St Patrick’s Day, July 4th, or even Election Day, it was The Boston Marathon, which I believed brought out the best in the City of Boston.

Often a beautiful sunny but cool day. Listening to the voices of young people and kids from Hopkinton to downtown Boston, coffee shops and restaurants filled with tourists and 36,000 Red Sox fans pouring out of Fenway Park to see the end of The Marathon at Kenmore Square, well no city can equal that.

I loved seeing people holding

all the homemade signs which often meant someone was running the marathon for a loved one or a special cause. Whether it was Kids with Cancer or people with liver disease, runners were out there to show their love the best way they knew how. Once they committed themselves to the grueling 26.2 miles, Heartbreak Hill and all, there was no turning back. You were now running for something more important than yourself. Who could ever imagine saying, “my legs are starting to cramp up, and I think I’ll drop out.” You made a commitment to run and you’re going to keep it. Besides, with all those spectators cheering everyone, how can you now walk through the crowd with your running shirt reading Cops Running For Kids With Cancer and say, “I’m tired.”

I ran over 20 marathons. Including

Boston, New York, Atlantic City, Rome and Dublin. And I’ve witnessed some great and exciting days in Boston over the years, from City Hall celebrations for our world championship sports teams to the July 4th Bicentennial of our country. They were all were meaningful and special.

But the experience and yes the punishment of training for and running in The Boston Marathon is special. For me, it meant I would begin a strict training schedule beginning January 1st, with a 10 mile run every night after a long and stressful day in City Hall. Luckily I had friends like Donny Murray of the Boston Police union, Commissioner Mickey Roache, Eddie Burke and John Kilcommons who took turns to run with me every night, beginning at City Hall through the neighborhoods.

On Marathon Day, for me it was 7am Mass, and then until the

race started, listening to the stories from the runners about sick kids and why they we’re determined in raising money for them. During the grueling race course, I often thought it would be great to attend the Boston Marathon Brunch, sit at the finish line and place the wreath on one of the winners head, but I never did that. I was always far in back of the pack, often in pain, thinking to myself, why am I here? But in a few hours laying saying, there was no place in the world I would rather be.

It’s often been said that I met over 50 percent of the people in Boston. Heck, I bet I met 100 percent of the people of Massachusetts who waved to all the runners and gave us the thumbs up encouragement to keep running for what we believed was important.

Ray Flynn is the former Boston Mayor and frequent runner of the Boston Marathon.

Around The Globe – US Army Major Lindsey Elder

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

staff report

On April 5th, South Boston native Lindsey Elder, Public Affairs Officer, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Republic Of Korea, was promoted to the rank of Major. Lindsey, 31, is the daughter of proud parents Donna Elder and Fred Elder of South Boston. On the road to her promotion, Major Elder had assignments in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, Landstuhl Germany, and Mosul Iraq with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood Texas, and Boston University R.O.T.C.

SBT – How is it being stationed in Korea?

Major Elder- “I really enjoy being stationed in Korea. I have had opportunities to work with U.S. media, Korean media and Thailand media just in the six months I’ve been here. I would not have had such opportunities in the states. It is very exciting to be part of the Army’s largest and longest forward deployed division and serve as a public affairs officer for one of the Army’s largest and most well equipped brigades. My favorite part of my job is telling the Army’s story and all the good things our Soldiers are doing “

“I also appreciate the unique aspect of being in a country where military service is mandatory. In the US, it usually feels like a rare, happy moment when someone I’m interacting with is a veteran themselves. Here, it’s almost a certainty that every man, from about age 21 or older be it the person driving your cab, managing the local businesses or in the restaurant beside you, has served in uniform for their country. “

SBT- Growing up in South Boston, how did that help you in achieving your present position?

Major Elder - -”I think growing up in South Boston I had a sense of hard work and a drive to aspire for more. I know my family sacrificed a lot to be able to afford private education for me until high school. After that,

they lost the vote because I wanted to go to South Boston High School.” :)

“If I’m really being honest, I would have to say it was some of the negative influences I saw in the area that pushed me the most. It’s not as much of a problem nowadays, but when I was young there were always gangs of teenagers and people in their early twenties just hanging out on the corner by my home. When I passed them coming from my jobs or going to and from the club it just reinforced to me that I will not be wasting my life doing nothing here. I wanted to contribute to making things better, travel, and be influenced far beyond the 02127 zip code. I would encourage everyone to do the same. It makes me much happier to come back and tell young SB residents that although it’s a great place, just because you’re from here shouldn’t make you feel like you should never leave.”

SBT- Any Southie memories you would like to share?

Major Elder - “Being a member of the South Boston Boys and Girls Club was always one of my favorite pastimes growing up. I would encourage anyone still in the local area to help out the club council and try to give back as a mentor or just support their cause”

“Being in JROTC at South Boston High School was my favorite SB memory. If someone told me then that someday I would be Major myself, with my own war time memories, back when I spent my time with Major Korzeniowski , Master Sergeant O’Neal and Sergeant First Class Fellows, I never would have believed it. I am extremely happy in my career and I never would have considered it at all if not for my time with them.”

We at South Boston Today thank Major Elder for her service and her friends, family and neighbors all want her to know how proud we are of her. We wish her a safe journey and Godspeed in her defense of the United States.



In an attempt to preview our upcoming profile of a South Boston Native, doing us proud Around The Globe, we were hasty and apologize for misstating the Major’s actual promotion.

Citizen Hero...CONTINUED FROM page 1

both legs but has survived.

Arrendondo underscored the character of both the trained and volunteer responders that day by simply stating “I acted instinctively. People needed help”.

Allied War Vets Hold Post Parade Dinner

The South Boston Allied War Veterans held its annual post parade dinner last Sunday at Shenanigans on West Broadway. This dinner is becoming a tradition and its purpose is to say thank you to all the people who put in their time, effort and hard work to make sure that the St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade went off as it should. This year, as always, the event was a rousing success and it just seems to get better each year.

work hard for a worthy goal is apparent and sincere.

Wacko Hurley and Phil Wuschke Jr., both of whom hosted the dinner were pleased at the turnout and the enthusiasm of all in attendance. Chief Marshal Ed Flynn said it was an honor to hold that title and work on behalf of the town and the Allied War Vets for such a successful celebration. And the look of satisfaction on the face of Tim Duross, who handles much of the logistics and plays a major role in making sure the



The parade was long and filled with more than 135 units and was so big it took 3 hours to pass any given spot along the route. Contacting and locking in commitments from all the units, many of which travelled long distances to come and participate, the logistics, safety concerns, lining up the police details, working with city officials for street prep and then street cleaning all takes a massive effort from many people who are by this time skilled in putting it all together.

Fund raising to pay for the parade is a major part of the process and though raising the large amount of money needed started off slowly, by the time the event took place, a near record amount of donations, both by local business as well as contributions from individual residents caused the goal to easily be met; with money left over to put towards next year.

The dinner at Shenanigans was well received and well attended and all present had a good time and without a doubt, enjoyed the day and each other's company. This was a team effort and like every team, the closeness of those who

parade starts off on time said it all, it was well worth the effort.

The St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade has throughout these many years been a family event; one that appeals to the kids, their parents and people of all ages. The Allied War Vets are determined that it will stay exactly that and have every intention never to let it be cheapened or diminished by agenda driven politics pushed by disruptive elements who would turn it into a protest rather than a celebration. It is the 'no backing down' attitude of these veterans, these good people who, by their courage, determination and dedication helped keep our country free during time of war, now show that same spirit when it comes to maintaining the traditions that the South Boston Community cherishes.

As has been said before and made even clearer now, this is something that did not change this year, will not change next year - not ever... Those in attendance at Sunday's post parade dinner, which could also be called a victory celebration made that as plain as the Shamrocks on many lapels.



Artist's Studio... Southie Youth Give Up Vacations To Help Others

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Guest Contributor Dan McCole

Nineteen kids from South Boston and six chaperones went to Mississippi in 2010 and tore down a house. And the woman who owned it cried. That's a fact, but it's not the whole story.

The youth, during their spring school vacation, left home and made their way down to the small, sleepy, southern town of Bay St. Louis, slept on double-decker cots in Quonset-hut canvas barracks in back of a churchyard, ate jambalaya, mac 'n cheese and cold scrambled eggs, sprayed themselves with bug repellent and sun screen, and in sweltering 90 degree heat tore into the roofing shingles, tarpaper, two by fours, plywood boards, walls and windows in a nail pulling, sledge smashing, shingle stripping, wallboard whacking, hammer hacking and trash hauling frenzy. They stripped down this house that had been ruined by the Katrina hurricane in 2003 and it made the woman who owned the property cry. She cried in gratitude.

That was five years after the abandoned house was declared a hazard. She didn't have the money to have it demolished and to avoid possible fines and allow a possible sale of the property. So, the house had to be taken down. It's hard to image 19 young city kids (7 boys and 11 girls) on their spring school vacation sleeping in barracks (separate barracks, thank you), cranking it up for a 7 a.m. breakfast, making their own lunch sandwiches and cleaning up the area, before they began a day's work at 8 a.m. But don't for a minute believe the kids ate just jambalaya and cold eggs, because at the end of the day, they had the instinctive awareness of where the nearest Popeye's Chicken place, Burger King, MacDonald's and any other fast-food chop-shop were within a ten-mile radius.

And then there was the SONIC. The SONIC was the Holy Grail to these kids (and a few of the chaperones). The SONIC was a roller-skating-

waitress fast-food drive-in. (Think back to the days of the Adventure Car-Hop.) On day one, the kids were taught the use of power tools and they made and painted 6" inch plank picnic tables from scratch. Another group cracked apart a boat that had been abandoned at the edge of a wooded area and then emptied (by hand) a large trailer load of debris from prior demolitions.

The kids hand-emptied three of these trash haulers before the week was done. Should've worn them out right? No way! Every night they shot hoops, threw the footballs, ran to the beach, danced and laughed 'til all hours. On the last two days of work they took on the house and the house came in second. They did this in 90 degree weather and they never wilted. Half a dozen worked up on the roof (they wouldn't come down); the rest, armed with crowbars, wedges and sledges, hopped around huge holes in the flooring and ripped into the walls, windows and doors. Two days later, they holstered their tools, and all that was left standing were the studs. Then they went and hand-emptied another large trailer of debris onto the local dump.

Mayra Rodriguez Howard, director of youth activities at the South Boston Community Health Center, heads up a program called 'Young at Arts' that targets neighborhood youngsters from 12 to 18 in an arts venue centered around painting, writing, photography, etc. Four years ago, the South Boston Arts Association, teamed up with Ms. Howard's Health Center youth in a series of art projects that produced the well-known 'Lighthouses on Broadway' and the hand painted 'Adirondack Beach Chair' programs. Through the arts programs they found a way to ricochet the youngsters' energies into productive and much needed street cleaning in Southie. That effort led to the work such as this Mississippi trip, the second trip to Bay St. Louis, and a year later a group painted houses in New Orleans - all of the

areas that were deeply affected by 'Katrina's' devastation.

And now, at this moment, a new group of youngsters are on Staten Island, New York helping with the tremendous problems left behind after last year's Hurricane Sandy. The youth learn a bit about real problems faced by the overpowering ways of nature and how these storms affect and resonate with the victims. For a time they forget about the trauma of

not having the latest iphone and video game. And they bring that feeling back to the Southie community. Their stories almost tell themselves. Anyone interested in donating to help defray the expenses of these 'Young at Arts' programs may contact Ms Howard or Linda Doran at the South Boston Community Health Center - 617 464-7423.

Keep in touch through our website (<http://www.southbostonartsassoc.org>)



New Orleans painters



The house never had a chance



**Every week, we will run an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin", which can be heard LIVE every weekday from 8-10 a.m. on 1510 NBC Sports Radio Boston, and BlogTalkRadio, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be read on Comcast SportsNet.*

Not here. Not us. And certainly not on this day.

Those were the thoughts running through my mind on Monday night, as my body was glued to the couch and my eyes were zoned in on the television.

This section is usually meant for a "question-and-answer" format that comes directly from my daily sports-talk show on 1510 NBC Sports Radio Boston. But after the Marathon Monday bombings, and as this is written on a somber Tuesday night-after, I'm not sure there are enough answers to the questions we have, after witnessing cowardly acts of terror on Boylston Street Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday's show, I had the opportunity to describe what I saw the day before, to describe what I watched over and over and over again on the news.

Not many have the privilege of getting behind a microphone and expressing their emotions over the radio. So I felt the need to put sports aside, and speak what was on my mind.

But these, right here. These are my thoughts, on paper.

And the one thought that I can't get out of my head is, "How does Bill Richard feel?"

Dorchester native. Father of 8-year-old Martin Richard -- who was one of three people killed in Monday's attack that also injured close to 200 people. He has to not

only deal with the death of his son, but also has to tend to his wife and daughter, who are both recovering from serious injuries, as a result of the bombings.

Innocence. Unnecessary. Cowardly.

Those are words that come to mind when thinking about the victims who lost loved ones, limbs, and ultimately, hope for a civilized world.

But before you could lose all of that hope, you're reminded of the first responders on the scene who essentially were risking their lives to help those who were injured. In their mind, at the time, those on the scene had no idea when, where, and if the next bomb would go off. Acts of complete unselfishness took control over a setting covered in blood, tears, and shock.

Police officers, fire fighters, EMT's, paramedics, doctors, nurses, civilian volunteers. These are the heroes. These are the people who kept hope alive on Monday. Not just in Boston, but throughout the entire country.

I stay true to the belief that hope is the greatest thing in the world. And what's been better than the efforts from professional sports teams and athletes doing everything they can to provide hope for a quick recovery in Boston?

The Montreal Canadiens had an emotional moment of silence before a game. The Chicago Tribune ran a large graphic on the front page of their sports section that read, "We are Chicago Red Sox, Chicago

Patriots, Chicago Bruins, Chicago Celtics, and Chicago Revolution." Phoenix Coyotes defenseman and Boston native Keith Yandle wrote "Pray for Boston" on his skates. And New Yorkers sang along to "Sweet Caroline" in between an inning at the same Yankee Stadium that showcased a sign on the outside of the building that read "United We Stand" in the middle of a Yankees and a Red Sox logo.

The show went on. Everywhere except Boston.

Monday's Bruins game at the TD Garden was canceled. So was Tuesday's Celtics game. All we could watch was the news.

National telecasts made it difficult to move on. Seeing graphics on MSNBC, FOX News, and CNN that read "Boston Bombing" and "Terror Attack at Boston Marathon" just didn't look right. It didn't make any sense.

And they played the videos over and over. You couldn't miss it if you tried. And the more I saw those bombs go off, the less sense it made.

As of Tuesday night, as I sit here and continue to search for the words that I might have been without on my show Tuesday morning, the visuals of bombs detonating on Boylston Street just aren't registering with me.

It doesn't look right. Not there.

Boylston Street isn't a war zone. It's a major street in Boston. It's one of the more upbeat streets in the city. And as I watch this horrifying footage, I think of all the times I've

walked up and down that exact side of Boylston. Too many to count.

Just a day before, I took the No. 9 bus into Copley Square and walked up that side of the street, all the way into Fenway Park, where I covered Sunday's Red Sox game for Comcast SportsNet New England. I cover most home games. I take the same route every late afternoon. Get off the bus at Copley. Cross the street. Go into Dunkin' Donuts to get a coffee. And keep walking down to Yawkey Way.

So seeing bombs go off in those spots is surreal. That's not supposed to happen. No. Not there.

But as I sat glued to the couch, by about 9 p.m. rolled around, I began thinking of where I was when this attack took place.

I was on my way into Daisy Buchanan's on Newbury Street. I was running a live broadcast out of the local establishment from 4-6 p.m. for NBC Sports Radio Boston. It would be the second straight year that I'd broadcast from there on Marathon Monday.

My father was giving me a ride in. The plan was always for him to pick me up at 2:30 p.m. We were taking the long way from Southie. Down the seaport, up State Street, around the Commons, and down to Comm Ave.

Even that way, even on Marathon Monday, it's only a 15 minute drive, max.

But I was running late. I texted



my father at about 2:15 and told him to give me until 2:45 instead.

As we drove through downtown Boston, I got a call from my producer, Roei Biberstain, at about 2:58. He was running late as well. I answered the call, and he was in complete panic.

Hey asked, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON OUT HERE?"

I had no idea. I was just minutes away. So I told him I'd be there shortly.

"TWO EXPLOSIONS JUST WENT OFF AND THEY ARE EVACUATING THE AREA," he yelled.

I was confused. As he said that, I was receiving several texts and a call from a friend who asked if I had heard the explosion. Luckily, they were walking along Newbury -- and not Boylston -- en route to Daisy's, to check out my show.

My father turned the radio on.

Just in time for an update. Nothing. Even the news had no idea. So neither did I.

Then I got texts from friends who were cops, and they told me to get out of the area because two bombs just went off. So my father turned around and we went to pick up my mother at work instead.

We did no show at Daisy's that day. I never made it all the way in.

But as I sat on my couch later that night -- watching what seemed like unrealistic, yet continuous footage of bombs detonating on Boylston Street -- I thought back to my mindset on the drive into Daisy Buchanan's earlier that day. I remembered being all jacked up about broadcasting in front of a large audience (Daisy's is located on the corner of Newbury and Fairfield, right around the corner from the second explosion).

I distinctly remember wanting to get there a little before 3 p.m. I

wanted an hour to set up and put up our NBC Sports Radio signs all over the bar. But I needed an iced coffee before I did anything.

My plan was to get dropped off before 3, immediately walk up Fairfield, take a left turn onto Boylston, and grab that coffee. The plan was so specific, I can remember telling myself on the ride in that I was going to walk down to the same Dunkin' Donuts I always go to on the way to Red Sox games. But I knew it was close to the Marathon finish line, so I told myself that if I couldn't get near it, I'd just settle for Starbucks -- which is exactly where the second explosion was.

I never got that coffee. I never made it into Daisy's. I was running late.

On Monday night, I became rattled at the thought of being picked up by my father at the original time of 2:30 p.m. It would have put me onto Boylston Street sometime between 2:45 and 3 p.m.,

in that same exact spot where the second explosion went off.

A similar story comes from my aunt Moe, who had taken my little cousins in town to see the Marathon finish line. But they stopped walking a block before the area of the second explosion because my little cousin Brady said his legs were too tired to go any further.

They stopped. They lived.

Some didn't have our luck on Monday. And those are the ones who should be remembered more than anyone else.

Wrapping this up, it still doesn't make much sense. The videos still aren't registering with me. And the photos are surreal.

There are so many emotions. But most of them have turned into anger.

As time passes, and questions are answered, one emotion we won't have, is fear.

Not here. Not us. And certainly not on Marathon Monday.

Put a SPRING in your step @ 482 West Broadway, Shuberts



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