



## To South Boston and Our Veterans – We’ve Got Your Back

### *A Note To Mass Equality*

Let's cut to the chase. The South Boston Parade, first and foremost, is and has always been a celebration of the birth of our nation, our Irish ancestry and the role of patriots in our history. Millions of visitors, cloaked in Kelly green, have made this community a destination to celebrate these traditions with us, as the winter season heads into spring. For many years, the crowds have been larger than those of the Boston Marathon.

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This Week's  
Poll On  
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# EDITORIAL “You’re not Special”

**This letter to the Editor** appeared in a daily newspaper March 1st. It is our decision to omit the author’s name. It speaks for itself.

*Gays Don’t Need to Wave Flag to Revel in Southie Parade*

Eighteen months ago, Condoleezza Rice joined the Augusta National Golf Club, one of the first two women admitted. Should she have refused? Augusta is still a private organization choosing whomever it likes. Should she have deferred until the club reflected the diversity of America? Should she have worn a MalcolmX T-shirt on her first day of play to protest

the club’s past decisions? It’s right of the private organizations to select their participants. I know of gays who are marching with their straight neighbors, and I know of more than a dozen gay parties

In Southie for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. We clearly will not be boycotting, despite the wishes of many observers (“Walsh pushes for gay groups in parade,” Page A1, Feb. 27). At some point we have to stop being gay activists. I’ve fought my entire life to be accepted, to fit in, and to belong. The Allied War Veterans Council has

asked only that I not wave the gay flag as a political statement to distract from this day, just as they ask the same of anti-war and anti-abortion protestors.

For St. Patrick’s Day I go by their rules, and for Gay Pride they follow ours. The only people boycotting the parade this year are those paid, or charged, to be politically correct. Either that or they can’t recognize progress when they see it. They probably would’ve turned down membership to Augusta National and a chance for change.

*A South Boston Resident Spoke Up:*

Some will be shocked,

“don’t they all think alike”? Here’s another shock. Gay people are not special. They’re Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Liberal and everything else under the sun just like everybody else and isn’t that the goal? Isn’t that the point? Like extremists of every persuasion there are those who think they’re a little better, they’re a little special. To them it’s not enough to be simply admired as an Iraq-Afghan veteran. No, to them if you’re a gay Iraq-Afghan Veteran you deserve “special” recognition. Of course

when you’re “special” you can say anything you want to get your own way even when it turns out the “contingent” of vets didn’t have enough vets for a 4-person color guard.

Grow up. Gay people have been our friends and neighbors for a long time now. We live together 364 days and you people are nowhere to be found. For one day every year the extremists try to pit us against each other. Nobody’s special. Everybody’s the same, except for Southie residents of course. Now they’re something special.

*“Of the 4 wars in my lifetime, none came about because America was too strong”-President Ronald Reagan - Veteran*

## This Week’s Poll

Do the Allied War Veterans deserve more respect than they are getting from the daily press, special interest groups, and others?

YES  
or  
NO

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# The Information Center



## Pushback on the Parade: We Stand with our Allied War Veterans

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
John Ciccone

*Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at [jciccone@southbostontoday.com](mailto:jciccone@southbostontoday.com)*

Before we get to our main topic, we have another request from the great veteran John Mullen of the Thomas F Fitzgerald Veteran's post. John respectfully asks that no more flowers be left at the World War II Memorial on the beach. Though placing of flowers there is a thoughtful and beautiful act, it's causing a mess; especially with all the bad weather. So at least until further notice, please no more flowers. Thank you!

Last weekend, Mayor Walsh made a statement regarding the annual media circus that always swirls around South Boston's St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade. He said he has "already spent too much time on this issue". Right you are Marty, way too much time. This is an issue deliberately stirred up each year at this time to gain publicity for the 'agenda driven'. Some people see it as Mayor Walsh being baited by the press and manipulated by some of the radical organizations looking for publicity and pushed along by the progressive left higher-ups in his administration. And we believe we know exactly who those higher ups are.

And as of this past Tuesday, the decision by the South Boston Allied War Veterans is this: No! No to the Mass Equality group who applied to bring in a group of gay veterans to march in this year's parade. After a background check, it turns out that there is no evidence that this group is a legitimate veteran's organization. And according to the Allied Veteran's statement, they were attempting to

gain access under false pretenses. Well well! We can't say we are shocked. It's a tactic that would-be parade crashers have tried in the past. In the 1990's, it was found that the gay rights group that did get into the parade had among its membership some of the very same people who were disrupting church services around the city and throwing condoms at priests. Then of course there is the so called Veteran's for Peace' who originally claimed they wanted to march to celebrate St. Patrick's Day but as it happens, their real goal is to turn Southie's parade into a protest against our military. And now we have Mass Equality as yet another group who seems to have no problem misrepresenting itself to gain access. Not only are we told that they probably could not even come up with 20 legitimate veterans to march as they said they would, but when pressed, some of them didn't even know what a color guard was. Busted!! These groups never learn. They try to portray our veterans as stupid, but the vets always outsmart them, don't they.



But the biggest problem is not the radical groups with disruption as their goal, it's some of this city's and this state's elected officials, members of the press, and a few of our own neighbors, who immediately take the side of the attackers and demand our vets give in. They are quick to blame our veterans without even checking to see who it is they are siding with and what the agenda is. Some of it is ignorance and all too often it's a desperate need to appear to

be 'enlightened'. This earns them little, if no, respect, nor should it. Will there be gay persons in the parade marching in the units? Of course, there always has been, they are welcome and no one has a problem with it.

Most South Bostonians already know this, but for the few who don't and for the people out of town who only hear what a self-serving trouble causing press wants them to believe, the South Boston Allied Veterans have a policy

when it comes to their parade. There are rules and conditions in place for everyone. One of those rules which is clearly articulated is that no group, organization or individual that wants to be in this celebratory parade will be allowed to display any sexually themed or radically themed messages. Gay, straight or whatever, it doesn't matter; absolutely no message referring to sexual orientation will be allowed. Don't like the rules?

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## Rep. Collins Pushes for Veterans Benefits

State Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing measures to support veterans and their families locally and throughout the Commonwealth. This session Rep. Collins voted in favor of the VALOR Act II, which builds on existing legislation to provide increased property tax relief and enhance employment, educational and healthcare support services for veterans. These benefits will be available to approximately 400,000

veterans residing in the state.

With the support of the legislation's co-sponsor, State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, and Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) Executive Director James Rooney, Rep. Collins worked to ensure that veterans will also benefit from the planned BCEC expansion by requiring general contractors to use Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBs) as subcontractors on the project, as part of the state's mandated Supplier

Diversity Program that also includes Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs).

"As a Commonwealth, our commitment to our nation's veterans is unmatched," said Rep. Collins. "While we continue to lead the way in providing veterans' services and benefits, this bill ensures that our veterans are at the table when it comes to doing business with the state. I am proud to have authored this bill with Senator Forry and look forward to its passage."

## Rep. Collins Votes to Enhance Anti-Bullying Legislation

Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the House to pass legislation that

builds on the 2010 landmark anti-bullying legislation by creating new reporting measures and recognizing certain populations as more vulnerable to bullying. The updates are designed to increase the efficacy of the original legislation which prohibited bullying and cyber-bullying, and required schools to establish related programs. The bill creates a data collection and reporting mechanism that will

help educators, administrators and legislators identify trends and respond appropriately.

"I am proud to join my colleagues in strengthening our anti-bullying laws," House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo said. "We are fortunate to have an exceptional educational system in Massachusetts and it is our duty to ensure students are safe and are able to maximize these resources to the full extent."

"This bill updates the landmark anti-bullying law by providing additional tools and resources that will allow the Commonwealth to help create safe, supportive environments for those who are especially vulnerable to bullying, such as LGBT students and students with disabilities," said Rep. Collins. "This bill also provides an excellent opportunity for the state to measure the impact and effectiveness of the 2010 law."

### **Provisions of the bill include the following:**

- Schools must annually report bullying data to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and submit aggregate data on bullying to the Attorney General and Legislature;
- DESE is required to inform parents about its Problem Resolution System and the process for seeking assistance or filing a claim; and
- School bullying prevention plans must recognize that certain enumerated categories of students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying.

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Go have your own parade or be part of one that doesn't care.

Another example that we were just reminded of is that several years ago, a group proclaiming their 'Irish heterosexual/straight Pride' tried to march in the parade. The Allied War Vets told them the same as they have told everyone else. The group refused so their request to march was then denied by the Allied War Vets. Though it's hard for some with an agenda to accept, the same rules apply to everyone, no one gets special treatment or a waiver.

Living in South Boston we are subjected to many surprises. Yet there is much that is predictable. One of those things is the nauseating rants of Peter Gelzinis of the Boston Herald. How predictable is Gelzinis? As predictable as the odor that always follows a skunk after a moving truck turns it into road kill. He often starts early on, well before March to stir the pot and get the controversy over the parade going. He baits politicians to 'take a stand' against our South Boston veterans whom he seems to despise. He refers to them as Ayatollahs, as in Islamic terrorists, compares them to Communist dictators like the Castro Brothers from Cuba and seems to imply that the sooner our local vets die, the better. Some locals refer to him as a venom-filled hater who loathes South Boston. Others call him a petty curmudgeon. But of course I would never say any of those things. It wouldn't be nice. To me, he's just an unhappy media troll who instead of preaching from a soapbox sounds more like he's in a sandbox. But hey, that's my opinion.

Here's the thing. The South Boston Allied War Veterans as everyone knows have the law on their side. In fact, using the term that liberals love when

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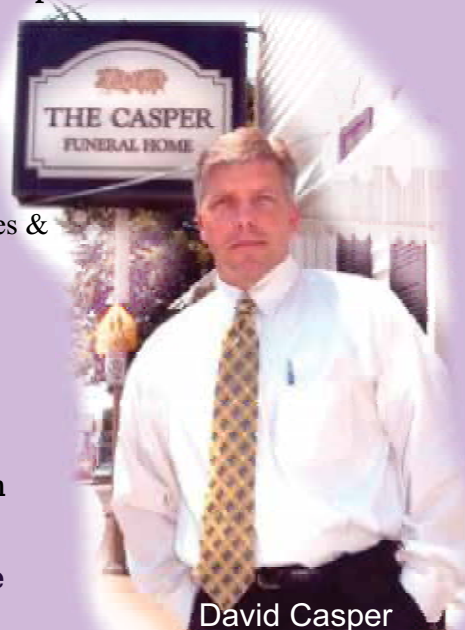
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# Reading Between The Lines

## “The Battle”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at [bmahoney@southbostontoday.com](mailto:bmahoney@southbostontoday.com)

Experience has taught us in Boston that rain, sleet, snow, gale force winds and freezing temperatures that arrive sometimes in February and March are known as a “Nor’easter”. Unaccustomed, The British could only equate this phenomenon to as “Hurricane”.

The British plan was to cross to Castle William (Castle Island), assemble, and then assault across at “Dorchester Point”. Instead General Howe later wrote a “Hurricane” had forced the cancellation of the assault ‘in the fear they would all be lost’ due to the weather. The same storm that drove the British indoors was used by the Americans as a fortuitous opportunity to strengthen their defenses, so that when the storm abated by noon on March 6, the British realized their chance to assault had passed. Undeterred, a squadron of warships weighed anchor and with sails full attempted to close on the North Shore (First Street). The looming Heights of the “Bush Tree” Hill forced the British to attempt a dangerous maneuver.

Shifting nearly every cannon to one side of the ship, the British intended this would allow the few cannons remaining on the other side to gain enough elevation to strike the American position on “Bush Tree”. This rarely used tactic carried the danger of swamping or even capsizing the ship. The North Shore at the time was riddled with inlets, barely submerged mud flats, and deepwater channels. This unpredictability, plus the batteries at “Bush Tree” and “Dorchester Point”, made the danger of grounding a ship under American guns too great to allow the British ships’ cannons to continue firing and this action was halted.

At “Dorchester Point” the Americans

were giddy at the British ships retreat. They began waving flags, gesturing, and generally taunting the British Troops at Castle William (Castle Island). The British at the castle had fired but found the range prohibitive. To counter this, the British attempted a double load of powder. Unfortunately this caused cannon to explode killing and wounding several British. That ended the day’s events and on March 7 an unspoken truce seemed to be in place and the British began making preparations to pack up.

On March 8 the intently watching Americans were dismayed to observe and receive reports that the British efforts toward withdrawing had turned into looting and destruction. It was then Washington played his final card. With sunset the Americans, who had kept their last 10 cannons behind the base of “Nook Hill” at “C” and 3rd Street, began the construction of the final and closest battery. Late into the night the American troops labored. Then, perhaps due to overconfidence, a soldier lit a fire for warmth.

Almost immediately the British “Green” Battery (at Washington and Berkeley Streets), alerted to their location, began a deadly fire. A company of the 10th Artillery Regiment under Captain Thomas Pierce continued to work under this withering fire. This unfinished position attempted to return fire. A 17-year-old Private, Stephen Jennings of Norton, dashed back and forth bringing powder to the cannons. It was during one of these runs he was felled by a bursting shell. Watching this was 25 yr old Sgt. Obadiah Adams from Littleton and 33 yr old Surgeon Enoch Dole from Lancaster. Along with two other soldiers, they grabbed a litter and ran to aid Jennings. Sadly, as all four

gathered round his fallen form, yet another British shell exploded, killing all four of the rescue party. Ironically, the act of aiding and hovering over Jennings, by the four, shielded him and he survived with the loss of a hand and eye. The firing continued all night, ending at sunrise after over 800 cannon balls had been fired and the American abandoned the fortification attempts.

This action seems, at least initially, to have prompted the British to cease the town’s destruction and continue the evacuation. Still by the morning of the 14th Washington had tired of

the British stalling tactics. He was well aware more troops had already sailed from England. In any event, Washington was spoiling for a fight. “If the enemy will be kind enough to come out for a fight, I mean to give them one” he stated. In full view and in broad daylight, the very place that the very first soldiers of this new army, of this new nation, under this new commanding General had given the “last full measure”, he ordered to be fortified.

By late afternoon on March 16th,  
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## Chief Marshal's Parade Update – Increase Security

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the 2014 Chief Marshall and to invite you to enjoy our best parade yet. Parade organizer Phil Wuschke and the Allied War Veterans have once again put together a celebration sure to please all in attendance. It is, however, with a new and serious look at security. As we approach the first anniversary of the Marathon Bombing, it is worth heightened concern and we seek both the police and public to assist in prevention.

We are seeking the state to recognize this

parade of a million or more spectators as a special state event requiring extra resources. The activation of National Guard and deployment of State Police to augment the Boston Police should be the first step. The Boston police State police, MBTA police and other agencies, have always and continue to provide top notch control on the route. It is a question of numbers. Ideally all streets with access to the actual parade route would have a two person checkpoint. This would require an additional 200 more personnel. At minimum, a system

to prevent or check knapsacks, coolers, 30 pack cases and requiring clear plastic cases and requiring clear plastic bags needs to be implemented.

We, the public, need to be watchful and co-operating partners with the police to create a safe, fun day. The governor and authorities must do their part in a prompt manner to provide the million or more visitors, as well as residents, a heightened secure environment in this new reality and provide the appropriate resources. An official route and schedule and any noteworthy policy or rules will be printed next week.

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this final and most ominous position was completed. The next day, March 17th, the last British ship cleared Boston Harbor by noon as American troops entered the city. These troops discovered the final contempt of the British who had looted and used churches and meeting houses cavalry stables. In fact, in violation of the cease fire, they set Castle William ablaze as they left. Washington, expecting English treachery, placed in command as Officer of the Day (O.D.) General John Sullivan of County Wexford and made the password "St. Patrick". So in effect the great British Empire surrendered their first American Colony to an Irish Catholic. This would probably be comparable to a former plantation slave owner working and taking orders under former African slave. "Those that laugh last, laugh best."

How did this action, without which, arguably, the revolution would have failed, become a footnote in history? Would the Revolution have survived without their secure base in Boston? The British successfully moved in and occupied New York, New

Jersey and Philadelphia. Over the next year, the only other American victory was the Christmas raid at Trenton, so how did the victory at Boston become so overlooked?

When the British fleet sailed away that St. Patrick's morning they left behind their hatred of the Irish and Catholics that remains with us in some form and by some people to this day. Consider that the battle occurred 236 years ago but for the first 130 years it was never observed. This is only the 108 observance. The ruling political elite were determined to keep the Irish in their place, but the joining of St. Patrick's and Evacuation was seen by the Irish, as divine intervention. That and the flood tide of Irish Immigration swelled their ranks to political power. Prior to that every undesirable activity was placed in South Boston by the ruling elite. The poor house and insane asylum were placed in South Boston. Except for the "Twin Hills", all of our "Heights" were leveled to fill in the Back Bay. A 45 acre park created for South Boston residents was first reclaimed by the Government as a military base and is now site of the Convention

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# The True Story About The People Of South Boston

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
By Ray Flynn

**Y**ou almost can't pick up the newspaper today without reading yet another negative story about the St. Patrick's Day's events in South Boston. Many of us know the obsession some people have in portraying us in the most negative light. But we should know that some of these South Boston haters can also be anti-Irish and dislike what the Catholic Church stands for. They give themselves away with their hateful blogs, anonymous letters, and telephone calls to talk radio shows. Those of us who have been around for a while remember how intense it was during school busing. The media told school parents that they were uneducated bigots and racists, if they opposed the busing order. We were told that the court order would improve the public schools for everyone. Well they were wrong and our city's children and city had to suffer for their arrogant and elitist decision.

Is the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast and the parade an issue of public interest, certainly. But these civic and religious events are no reason for anybody to tear down the good name of the people of South Boston, and make us look bad. Some of us might say, "we've pretty much gotten used to the criticism by now." With all the journalists, movie screenwriters and outsiders saying and writing so many unfair stories about the town, I often wonder why so many young professionals keep moving into the town. They certainly find the community attractive.

The other day many of us came together for a farewell party at Thomas Park for a special couple who have lived in South Boston for over 15 years. Not only did they live here, but they gave so much back to our community. We all came together to tell stories, sing songs and remind Peter and Mary how much they meant to the people of South Boston. They

were active in the Dorchester Heights Civic Association, St. Augustine's Chapel, Peter played the piano at various civic functions and he even gave neighbors free legal advice. Looking around the kitchen while singing songs, I thought to myself,

I only wish our critics knew what the people of South Boston are really all about. But I'll let Peter and Mary tell you themselves how they feel about the people of South Boston. This is what they wrote.

"Mary and I would like to thank each of you for planning, organizing and hosting that wonderful party on Saturday, and to thank everyone who participated in making it such an incredible event. We were completely overwhelmed by the turnout and the responses, and grateful to everyone for their thoughts and wishes, and so many kind words.

It provided a vivid reminder of what we love about South Boston and what makes it such a special place – welcoming, humble, proud, protective, distinctive, appreciative and rewarding, diverse but unified in the love it inspires for the community, preserving the best of the old ways, while integrating the new. All of that and more is what motivated us to get involved in the neighborhood associations, the nonprofits, and St. Augustine's, as our own way of participating in and helping to preserve our many precious local traditions and institutions. We've made a lot of good friends along the way, and it was really a privilege to share the time and memories with so many of you on Saturday.

In short there was never a better sendoff for someone embarking on an 18 mile peregrination. Hanover is not really so far away, and we're going to remain involved in several local organizations, so I know that we'll continue to see many of you around town. But that party provided a very special memory for us that we will cherish forever.

Please feel free to circulate this message on your lists to all those who attended or who wished to attend but were unable. You are all part of what makes this town and celebrations like that so special. Thanks again for everything.

*Sincerely,*

Peter Golemme and Mary Larkin"

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Center. When the Dorchester Heights Monument was dedicated in 1902 the guest speaker referred to the longstanding discrimination toward the Irish South Boston by noting "The Mayflower and the Shamrock have finally joined". Even then St. Patrick could only be celebrated under the umbrella of Evacuation Day.

Yet, even today, a simple parade to honor the military birth of America and our cultural heritage is constantly under attack, No where else and no other parade is singled out to be the target of others' political agenda. Not a single court in Massachusetts had the courage or honesty to give us the right that was so obvious the U. S. Supreme Court upheld it unanimously. 9-0!

I have a framed sign in my house. It was printed AFTER my mother was born. It reads "No Irish Need Apply". As we watch officially sanctioned assaults on our parade and us continue, it's obvious that some things haven't changed all that much. Still, here we stand and will always stand. Celebrate with pride.

*Happy Evacuation and St. Patrick's Day.*

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it comes to Obamacare, 'it's settled law'. If the vets were to decide to change the rules as far as who can be in the parade, then they can. It's their decision and no one else's. The vets make the rules and we will support them against anyone who attacks them. Then the press wants everyone else's views and principles to be respected and accommodated, except of course when it comes to the South Boston Allied War Veterans? Their tolerance is selective. Only our vets need to change it seems.

Finally, those officials, who pander to our veteran's opponents, and push only for compromise on the part of the vets, should be careful. They may discover that many more people than they think would prefer that they show some loyalty to our veterans and respect their Constitutional rights.

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# The Wine Guy THE HIGH BRIDGE

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Jamie Driscoll

**O**n the Chilean side of the Andes Mountains, southeast of the capital, Santiago, there is a region where the low-lying foothills quickly give onto min-mountains that climb to around 3,000 feet. This area is known as the Puente Alto or “High Bridge”, where some of South America’s best wines are made.

While the country has long been known as a dependable producer of moderately-priced wines in the more popular varieties, like Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, this jewel of Chile’s wine-growing regions produces some really superb versions of them as well, but also a varietal that is growing in favor in the U.S. market- Carménère.

The grape itself comes originally from France and is a red variety. Back in the 1880’s there was a terrible fungus, called Phylloxera, which decimated many of

Europe’s vineyards and nearly caused the extinction of several varietals, Carménère among them.

About thirty years before that, though, the varietal was brought to Argentina and made its way to Chile. Carménère wine has a deep red color and aromas found in red fruits, spices and berries. The tannins are gentler and softer than those in Cabernet Sauvignon, so it’s a more medium-bodied wine. It typically has a cherry-like, fruity flavor with smoky, spicy and earthy notes and a deep crimson color. On the palette, there are flavors of dark chocolate, tobacco, and leather. The wine is best to drink while it is young. Below are some great examples of this wine and others:

**Concha y Toro - Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon 2010-(~\$19.00)-  
Wine Enthusiast: 91 Points**

A real beauty with graphite, minerality and rich, clean, exciting berry fruit and controlled oak aromas. Very pure and stylish Cabernet Sauvignon with fat but balanced cassis and sweet berry flavors. Big tannins lend structure and framework; young, but drinking nicely now; will be better and more evolved over the next few years.

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The success of the parade and the dozens of local activities showcasing its traditions is testament to the dedication of the members of two venerable organizations, the Allied War Veterans and the South Boston Citizens Association, the oldest continuously active association of its kind in America. Their records of accomplishments are historic - the one in defense of our country; the other in the promotion of our community. Their existence is rooted in patriotism and civic pride and in advancing a celebratory agenda, pure and simple.

Along comes Mass Equality, incorporated in 2001 and the acknowledged champion of gay rights activism. Their existence is rooted in advancing a single purpose political agenda, pure and simple.

Unlike the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald and others, South Boston Today will not misrepresent the truths about

the parade application process, whose application has been accepted or denied and why, and the reasons behind the defense by the Allied War Veterans Council of its restrictions on parade participants. The truths are the following, prefaced by recorded fact and the need to repudiate disinformation being propagated in the coverage of the parade by Boston’s daily press.

First, in 1992, the unfairly maligned John Wacko Hurley stated under oath in testimony to the Supreme Court of the United States that, “The South Boston Allied War Veterans do not discriminate. We have always had gay people in our units. However, we allow no group with a theme or agenda not consistent or in conflict with the parade’s dual themes of honoring and remembering Evacuation Day and Saint Patrick to march.”

Secondly, and as a direct result of the intellectual dishonesty

CONTINUED ON page 12

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## Franklin Southie: The Law of Attraction

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
By Laela



achieve and maintain that same status owned by the Café, in Southie. The Franklin Restaurant Group had a keen sense of how to win in the restaurant biz and saw the same opportunity for growth in an ever-expanding South Boston. In spite of the crunch of the economy and stunted progress of property sales throughout the nation, Massachusetts, and the market of South Boston in particular, was still hot and the population was increasing. The construction of new housing units at Broadway Station was quickly being inhabited. This neighborhood was desirable but with more moving in, there was a void that needed to be filled. Franklin Southie wanted to help bridge that gap and anchor itself in the community to become not just an outpost but also a valuable element in the South Boston formula.

Southie was on the verge of a major transition; sure SB had been a sought-after destination for families and business professionals alike for a

In these past 6 years, both Franklin Southie and the community of South Boston have waxed and waned with the current of time. The transformation has been viable and palatable in both. Franklin Southie has, over this time, moved with the ever-evolving tastes of South Boston. The menu has reflected and complimented what the people want. The menu today echoes all aspects of South Boston: comfort, tradition and change. In order to achieve the greatest result, a convergence must occur. One without the other works but mixed together, it become almost irresistible.

Franklin Southie is now serving up a different approach to their offerings and plate presentation. New Chef de Cuisine Jeff Martino, formerly of Harvest, the Salty Pig and Citizen's, has brought to Franklin Southie his knowledge balancing local and seasonal components to craft intriguing and palate pleasing fare. Along with the ever-evolving appetites of today,



**P**eanut Butter and Jelly. Salt and Pepper. Bacon and Eggs. Chips and Salsa. Spaghetti and Meatballs. Yes, enjoyment and pleasure can be had in one without the other. But when put together, each half supporting, enhancing and repurposing their initial use, produce a final effort that can far exceed the expectations and possibilities of standing alone. It's synergy: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Working together, it creates a more perfect union.

Since 1996, the Franklin Restaurant Group has succeeded in finding the magic sensation and magnetic pull of success. Through their methodical practices in customer service, Franklin has cultivated a clientele and following that makes other establishments envious. The careful execution of creative cuisine and considerate "farm to table" inclusion in their kitchens is a model to be emulated in

the industry. Most importantly though is the infusion of comfort throughout the business, evident in the layout of the interior, the style of cooking and the convivial and un-forgetting staff. In all of their food businesses, from the casual Tasty Burgers to the sophisticated simplicity of Citizen's and the intuitive and inventive dishes at the Franklins, this phrase comes to mind, "you get back what you give." The Franklin Restaurant Group continually produces a quality package and in turn receives the reward it so deserves.

In 2008, amidst the subprime mortgage crisis and the bursting real estate bubble, Franklin Southie opened its doors a mere 0.7 miles away from its older, more established sister, Franklin Café. A driving force in the South End restaurant explosion, Franklin Café proved to be a reputable and reliable presence here to stay. Franklin Southie was hopeful to

long time. But with more prospective housing readily available, the surge of sales continued and the population had grown and added new dynamics to the wants and needs of the community. Would Franklin Southie and its concept thrive in a neighborhood built on tradition? When one thought of Franklin Café and South End cuisine, many distinct and unfamiliar tastes came to mind. But Southie was and had been for a long time, infusing the many cultures of its people into all aspects of neighborhood life. So though many may have seen the Franklin experience and South Boston as polar opposites, nothing could be further from the truth. The magnitude of South Boston's forward movement joined with the force and authenticity of the Franklin Restaurant Group made for a perfect match. "The law of attraction is this: You don't attract what you want. You attract what you are."-Dr. Wayne Dyer

Franklin Southie delivers a variety of food styles that please the masses. The American "tapas" at Franklin Southie fuses modern American comfort food and flavors with original and innovative ingredients. Ideal for a night out with girlfriends, where sharing is the standard, the small dishes are a perfect compliment to your evening. They have their own "take" on some classic American appetizer menu staples; "buffalo style" crispy chicken skins and a baby kale "Caesar" salad are only two examples. Still hungry? The larger plates are composed of the same tried and true winning combination of familiar with new elements. Craving something your mom would make? Check out their Whole Roasted Chicken Dinner (for 2) every Monday and Tuesday night; it includes three sides and two gravies for \$38. With patio season (hopefully) upon us, why not celebrate Spring coming in like a

CONTINUED ON Page 20





# Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

## *Your Guide to the Southie Scene and the “Southie Senses”*

*South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southie. From City Point to Fort Point to the South Boston Waterfront, there are so many opportunities to put your senses to good use!*

## Stepping Up: *It's Not A Sprint*

With the weather warming up to a balmy temp (30'+?) and the black/gray snow melting, I see them everywhere. Shades of bright pinks and blues and everything in between, slow and steady or whizzing by me at great speed while I contemplate going back to bed after coffee. Runners. Now that the dreaded second month of the year is behind us, March seems to be an inspiring time for people. It could be that February was so horrible every good intention you had and made for the New Year went to pot. I know for me it did; it is the 28 days to forget. Some people do it for their health, while others do it because it is just a part of them they cannot shake unless they go and bang out 10 miles before 9am. And then there are others who fall somewhere in between. Their driving force may be a mix of both but their ultimate goal is not just for personal wellbeing. The Boston Marathon has been a fundraising outlet for over 31 charities and in 2012, raised over \$11 million. The tragedies of last year's event live on forever in the minds and hearts here in Boston,

but it has also become a source of strength and inspiration for so many. Here in Southie we have some stand up and stand out people running for their lives and the lives of so many others. Why don't we help carry them across the finish line through supporting their valiant efforts? Below are some suggestions to get you started.

### **Team MR8 Run For Martin Richard Fundraiser at Paramount Southie:**

MR8 Team Runner Nick Masciarelli is a Southie resident who is lacing up his sneakers and raising money in Martin's honor and pledge "No more hurting people...peace". On Monday March 10 at 6pm, one of Nick's favorite Southie spots is hosting a benefit in honor of this cause; the Paramount Southie is selling tickets for \$75, all proceeds to benefit the Martin Richard Foundation. Apps and Sam Adams will be provided and served by the Paramount and other libations will be available for purchase. There is also an auction full of awesome items to bid on. If you cannot attend the event, please consider donating to Nick's online



page : [firstgiving.com/fundraiser/NickMasciarelli/team-mr8-boston-marathon-2014](http://firstgiving.com/fundraiser/NickMasciarelli/team-mr8-boston-marathon-2014) [teammr8.org](http://teammr8.org)

### **Other South Boston Charities and Runners:**

**South Boston Neighborhood House:**  
sbnh.org  
[crowdrise.com/sbnh2014bostonmarathon/](http://crowdrise.com/sbnh2014bostonmarathon/)  
**South Boston Boys & Girls Club:**  
[bgcb.org/our-location/south-boston-club/](http://bgcb.org/our-location/south-boston-club/)  
[crowdrise.com/sbostonbgc2014bostonmarathon/](http://crowdrise.com/sbostonbgc2014bostonmarathon/)

[fundraiser/BGCB](http://fundraiser/BGCB)  
**Mass Fallen Heroes: Nichole Mikshenas**  
[massfallenheroes.org](http://massfallenheroes.org)  
[crowdrise.com/massfallenheroesmarathon/fundraiser/nicholemikshenas](http://crowdrise.com/massfallenheroesmarathon/fundraiser/nicholemikshenas)  
**The McCourt Foundation for Alzheimer's and MS: Tanya Gillick**  
\*Tanya's hosting at fundraising event Thursday March 13 at 7pm at Abby Park in Milton\*  
[mccourtfoundation.org](http://mccourtfoundation.org)  
[sharingcounts.com/campaigns/256-tanya-gillick-boston-marathon-2014](http://sharingcounts.com/campaigns/256-tanya-gillick-boston-marathon-2014)

## Stepping Out: *ShamROCKED*

The best way in South Boston to gauge how the next 6-8 weeks of what Spring will be like is by the temperature and weather on parade day. Last year, crisp and sunny with a little chill in the air- spring had sprung. The year before the sweltering temp reached almost 70' and gave way to beach days and sunburns in March: it was here for an instant and then the summer scorcher started. Who knows what this year will bring. Sure I can read the 10 day forecast but not until I rise from slumber on March the 16th do I know what is in store. One thing I do know? There are lots of fun ways to celebrate that uncertainty with some St. Patrick's Day fetes. There is music to

be heard and sung, events that mimic the neighborliness and community of the old country and even a few pints to be raised. Get out and I am certain that no matter the weather, a good time will be had by all.

### **Friday March 7th, 5:30-11pm & Saturday March 8th, 2-9pm:**

This weekend kicks off with the 2014 Harpoon St. Patrick's Festival. Tickets are \$20 at the event and that gets you one drink ticket. There are food tents selling corned beef and cabbage and live music to be heard. Additional drink tickets may be purchased. Sample Harpoon's Boston Irish Stout, Crisp Cider or a taste-of-spring Long Thaw and raise a

glass to loyalty, love and friendship! Cheers! [harpoonbrewery.com/festivals/512/2014-harpoon-st-patrick-s-festival](http://harpoonbrewery.com/festivals/512/2014-harpoon-st-patrick-s-festival)

### **Sunday March 9th, 3-5pm:**

South Boston Citizen's Association is hosting an event at South Boston Bowlarama; 21+ SB Candlepin Bowl has an awesome array of draft beers and is hopping every day of the week. Many new and old South Bostonians sign up for their weekly leagues season after season. Sure to strike! [southbostoncandlepin.com](http://southbostoncandlepin.com)  
**Monday March 10th, 7-10pm:**  
Lincoln Tavern and Restaurant is hosting a Guinness dinner full of

down home cooking and, of course, Guinness! The courses will be also be paired with Harp and Smithwick's to name a couple. Cost is \$50 and you will receive a custom, engraved pint glass. Bottoms up! [eventbrite.com/e/guinness-dinner-at-lincoln-tavern-tickets-9975269299](http://eventbrite.com/e/guinness-dinner-at-lincoln-tavern-tickets-9975269299)  
Wednesday March 12th, 7-10pm: GrandTen Distilling will be debuting their homebrewed South Boston Irish Whiskey at Lincoln. Complete with bagpipes, everyone can celebrate and congratulate GrandTen on its amazing efforts and abilities to craft such delicious and impeccable spirits. **Sláinte! [grandten.com](http://grandten.com) [facebook.com/GrandTen](https://www.facebook.com/GrandTen)**



# Southie Senses:

*Things to touch, see, taste, smell and hear in Southie*



## **Touch:** *Hands A Clappin' and Toes A Tappin'*

Touchie's Shamrock Pub is kicking off the St. Patrick's Day season on the right foot! Always providing the public with a good time, Saturday's live music is especially fun. This Saturday March 8th at 8pm, be sure not to miss Tom Baker and the Troublemakers. So get down to the Shamrock, get out of your seats and get movin'!

**Touchie's Shamrock Pub, 501 East 8th Street**



## **See:** *History Being Made*

March is National Women's History Month. This Friday March 7th, 6pm, WeWork, located at 51 Melcher Street, is hosting "Women 2.0 Founder Friday Boston". Meet, mix and mingle with some successful and innovative female entrepreneurs from the area as well as new and up comers. Share stories and sip while you speak. There is also an opportunity to demo products at this event. For more information, check out the website provided. Conceive. Believe. Achieve

**eventbrite.com/e/women-20-founder-friday-boston-tickets-10663206939 • wework.com**



## **Taste:** *Hungry for a Cure*

The Blondes Vs Brunettes Boston Flag Football Team is hosting tryouts at the BAC over the next week and a half, with a registration deadline of 03/14. The teams are comprised of women who want to learn how and/or continue to play a little ball and meet other fierce femmes, all while raising money for the Alzheimer's Association. Sign me up!

**bvbboston.org • thebostoncalendar.com/events/blondes-vs-brunettes-tryouts--3**



## **Smell:** *Stop and Smell the Roses*

Signs of spring abound with the Boston Flower Show opening at the Seaport World Trade Center, March 12th, which is coincidentally, Plat a Flower Day. The theme this year is Romance in the Garden. Whether you have a green thumb, affinity for all things that grow or just need a reminder that after winter must come spring, this is place for you.

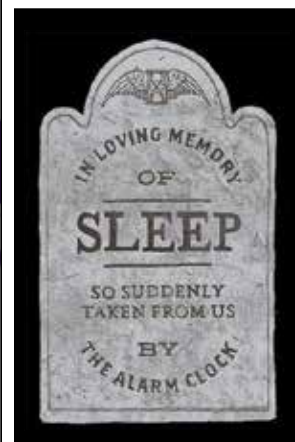
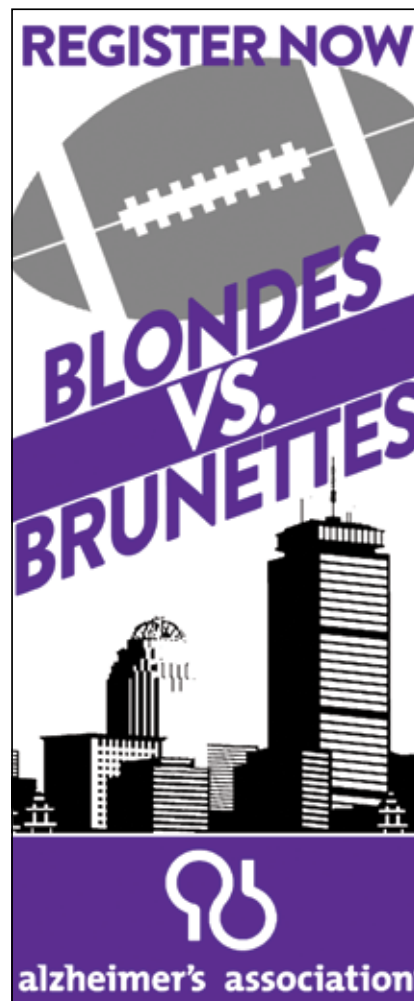
**bostonflowershow.com**



## **Hear:** *Sound the Alarms!*

I can only imagine what would happen if daylight savings occurred on a Monday. It would be utterly disastrous and Southie would probably be on pause for more than a few minutes. Don't forget to turn your clocks AHEAD this Sunday March 9th at 2am. Sure you will lose an hour of sleep but gain more sunlight. Don't fret- Sidewalk WILL be open again on Saturday March 8th, so you can grab an extra large iced to help the senses and stir up some spring. Spring Forward!

**sidewalksouthboston.com**



## Embrace All Of The Southie Senses: *A Time for Times*

With spring slowly, and I mean sllloowwwllly, creeping around the corner, a sense of hope, relief and change starts to surround us. It is evident in the blooms on the trees, the smell in the air and the amount of get-togethers and fundraisers being held in South Boston. It is a time to rid your self of cabin fever and shake off the cobwebs. So get

up, get out and give. You will look back and be happy you did!

### **Friday March 7th**

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at LAUGH Boston, 12-1:30pm; tickets are \$125, \$80 tax deductible. Proceeds benefit the South Boston Boys & Girls Club  
**bgcb.org/st-patricks-day-luncheon**

2014 Boston Flower

& Garden Show Preview Party, Seaport World Trade Center, 7-9:30pm; tickets are \$100. All proceeds benefit the Genesis Fund.  
**secure.interactiveticketing.com/a/6327e6 thegenesisfund.org**

### **Saturday March 8th**

Jumpstart Young Professionals Board Presents "Phantom of the Opera Masquerade

Gala", in The Winter Garden, Seaport East, 8pm-12am; tickets are \$100. A silent auction supports Jumpstart's programs.  
**jstart.org jstartypb-boston.org eventbrite.com/e/phantom-of-the-opera-masquerade-gala-tickets-9922185524**

23rd Annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fundraiser Presents

"Casino Royale" at the Seaport Hotel, 8pm-1am; tickets start at \$70. All proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.  
**cff.org cff.org/EventReg/dsp\_EventRegistration.cfm?registeringEventid=26406&IdEvent=26406**

**Tuesday March 11th**  
Taste of the Nations "Foodie Fight" Part

4, Lincoln Tavern and Restaurant, 7pm; tickets are \$20 and get you 2 drink tickets, pizza, tastings and a vote for the win! Share Our Strength's no Kid Hungry campaign aims to eliminate hunger for child in our nation.  
**eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-the-nation-boston-food-fights-part-four-tickets-10725820217 nokidhungry.org**



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.

**WWW.SOUTHBOSTONTODAY.COM**

CONTINUED FROM page 8

manifested by the selective reporting by the press and the quoted political comments by some elected officials, we feel compelled to remind the public and especially the good people of South Boston of the following facts. The Allied War Veterans Council has denied participation by the following applicants: The Ku Klux Klan, Anti-Busing Advocates, Pro-Life Advocates, Irish Northern Aid, a group calling themselves Irish Heterosexuals of Boston, and of

course GLIB, among others.

Finally as to the truth, two organizations, each with members who describe themselves as having LGBT identified persons, have submitted applications. One has been accepted – the South Boston Association of Non-Profits - because they agreed to the guidelines of the parade. The second – Mass Equality – initially had been accepted, with conditions. However, despite the seemingly conciliatory initial reaction to the conditions by their spokesperson Kara Coredini,

member activists quickly overruled her and issued a rejection of the conditions. One other applicant – Veterans for Peace – has been denied because they are an admitted anti-war protest group.

Subsequently, it was learned that the Mass Equality sponsored group, LGBT Veterans for Equality, was for all intent and purposes a shill. It turns out that the shill had only one veteran, who admitted both that he did not know what a uniformed color guard was and had no veterans who were available to march. In essence their application was dishonest on its face.

Then in a brazen exploitation of their relationship with Mayor Marty Walsh, they inveigled the Mayor to promote their charade in the name of the oppression of his Irish ancestors by British bigots. Seasoned in the art of compromise after 16 years in the State House, the Mayor likely believed that he could broker a deal. His one miscalculation was that he was looking for a political solution to an apolitical principle, which is the class of principle that the Supreme Court of the United States ultimately ruled on in 1992.

The scandalous rhetoric by the local press and gay activists from around the country that have portrayed the Allied War Veterans as senile homophobes and the South Boston community as ignorant bigots is shameful, if not downright abusive.

To underscore the height of arrogance, the insinuation drawn from the following quote made by South Boston native Peter Gelzinis in a recent article, that “Not much is likely to change so long as John “Wacko” Hurley draws a breath” has more to say about how shallow the ‘progressive agenda promoters’ are, than how cruel they appear. This uncalled for quote was a direct insult to the South Boston Community in general and Veterans in particular. Does Gelzinis, the Mayor or anyone else on this selfish crusade believe that the principle, which John Hurley defends, will die with him?

One lesson in human values that the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald and others still haven’t learned about this neighborhood - and one that will continue to guide it in this case - is that when it comes to issues rooted in principle, South Boston will not sell out its veterans or its community to promote anyone else’s political agenda.

Characterizing the dedicated men and women, who give up their time, money and energy to organize the celebration of American and Irish History in an uncomplicated and friendly way, as bigots is as immoral as characterizing LGBT persons as libertines.

In following the various invectives directed by the press at South Boston, one seemingly dispassionate observer wrote this comment under one such article and has framed the issue about as succinctly as anyone could.

Here is an excerpt. “I am a born and raised, third generation South Boston native AND I’m gay. I believe these two facts qualify my opinion as expert. My sexuality is only a part of who I am. In terms of the parade (and in my life in general), my bursting pride of my South Boston heritage is way more important. This matter has already been settled. The St. Patrick’s/Evacuation Day Parade have absolutely nothing to do with celebrating one’s sexuality. Whom I sleep with has nothing, absolutely NOTHING, to do with this celebration. I am so tired of this issue. If a gay veteran wishes to march in the parade, then march as a veteran not because you’re gay. We have our own gay pride parade to celebrate and honor our history, achievements, our law enforcement, our veterans, etc. Please, for the love of God, stop inserting sexuality issues where they don’t belong. I agree with another commenter in that it’s totally paradoxical or even hypocritical to seek inclusion and parity by separating and alienating. This is why many people feel like there is a “gay agenda”. It doesn’t make any sense. The day that my sexuality is a non-issue is the day we have succeeded.”

South Boston has become ground zero for the progressive wing of the Democratic Party’s political agenda. It appears that the proponents of that philosophy preach tolerance and inclusion as its suits their own agenda, but use tactics of derision and divisiveness, reinforced by a complicit press, as the tools of their message packaging.

In the end, the South Boston parade has a simple mission: present a parade theme that everyone can enjoy regardless of race, color, creed, religion

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# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
716 East Sixth Street Three Family	\$1,040,000	02/14/14	16	3	3390
256 Emerson St UNIT 3 Condo	\$959,000	02/21/14	8	3.5	2162
98 Bolton St UNIT 98 Condo	\$899,000	02/18/14	6	3.5	1900
90 Bolton St UNIT 90 Condo	\$899,000	02/19/14	6	3.5	1900
92 Bolton St UNIT 92 Condo	\$875,000	02/19/14	6	3.5	1900
96 Bolton St UNIT 96 Condo	\$869,000	02/19/14	6	3.5	1900
350 West Second St UNIT 9 Condo	\$739,000	02/14/14	4	2	1467
141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 309 Condo	\$735,000	02/18/14	4	2	1304
725 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$611,000	02/18/14	5	3	1622
470 East Eighth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$595,000	02/19/14	5	2	1155
12 Carpenter St UNIT 1 Condo	\$540,000	02/18/14	4	2.5	1700
470 East Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$525,000	02/19/14	5	2	1437
12 Mohawk St UNIT 9 Condo	\$515,000	02/15/14	4	2	1063
496-498 East Third St UNIT 3 Condo	\$508,000	02/14/14	4	2	1100
339 E St UNIT 1 Condo	\$400,000	02/14/14	4	1	710
3 Leeds St UNIT 2 Condo	\$379,000	02/14/14	4	1	597
762 East Broadway UNIT 4 Condo	\$340,000	02/14/14	4	1	902

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## A Southie Memoir

What makes South Boston so interesting? What is it about South Boston that has Hollywood so intrigued that it has made over a dozen films here? What attracted Martin Scorsese, Ben Affleck, Robin Williams, Paul Newman, Cliff Robertson, Ethan Hawke, Mark Ruffalo, Amanda Peet, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, Edward Norton, Alec Baldwin, and Morgan Freeman, all to South Boston? It's

the people, the characters, and its' colorful history.

"A Southie Memoir" is a story about two street smart kids from South Boston who grew up in the changing world of the 60's. Brian Wallace was a young basketball star whose friendship with a roly-poly troublemaker/conman named Sully took him on an unforgettable journey which you will never forget.

On their first encounter, at six years old, Sully lit the house next door to Brian's house on fire. On their last boyhood encounter, before college and the Marines separated them for the first time in their lives, they conned their way into staying for a weekend at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis. In between those encounters they used Boston as their personal playground and will never forget some of the people they met, and the encounters they had, along the way including The Beatles and their hero Bob Cousy.

At thirteen years of age they were hired to work for the Boston Celtics. They made friends with

Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West among others. They were used by Red Auerbach to play tricks on the Lakers, 76'ers, Knicks and the St. Louis Hawks. They posed as ball boys for the Boston Patriots for the entire 1965 season. They found themselves unexpectedly in the Patriots huddle, cleaning cleats and giving out water in front of 25,000 football fans in Fenway Park. They will never forget the hilarious fight Sully had with a 600 pound wrestler named Haystack Calhoun in front of 7,000 fans in Boston Arena or their dealings with Lance Alworth, Heisman Trophy winner Joe Bellino or an Aborigine boxer named Duke Sabadong. They survived perverts, the mafia, bookies, and other assorted criminals at fourteen years of age, in and around the Boston Garden. One of the funniest things ever seen at the Boston Garden, which is still talked about today by those who were there, was Sully's attempt to walk across center ice in the middle of a Bruins-Blackhawks game.

To escape the violent world around them Brian and Sully turned to basketball. But, in Boston, the street life sometimes invaded the athletic life. In 1967 an overflow crowd filled the South Boston High School gym as Southie played their rivals from East Boston. Midway through the second period an errant pass sent the basketball sailing into the crowd. A few seconds later the ball was thrown back to the referee. A huge knife wound had punctured the ball. A few minutes after that, East Boston's best player, Eddie Contilli, dove into the crowd after a loose ball. He didn't come out. He was taken out of the gym, unconscious, on a stretcher. He is now a Police Officer in Boston and works with two of the kids who beat him up that day.

"A Southie Memoir" is a story about a South Boston which no longer exists. It abounds with famous Southie characters, famous Southie nicknames, and famous Southie stories. It is about an incredible lesson that the streets taught to two young South Boston boys and the people and situations they encountered along the way. It is a story about loyalty, friendship, survival, laughter and pain. It is about how one of

them went from the mean streets of the lower end streets of South Boston to the powerful corridors of Beacon Hill as South Boston's state representative in the Massachusetts Legislature. You will laugh and you will cry but you will never forget "A Southie Memoir".

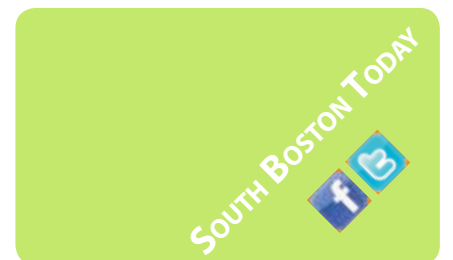
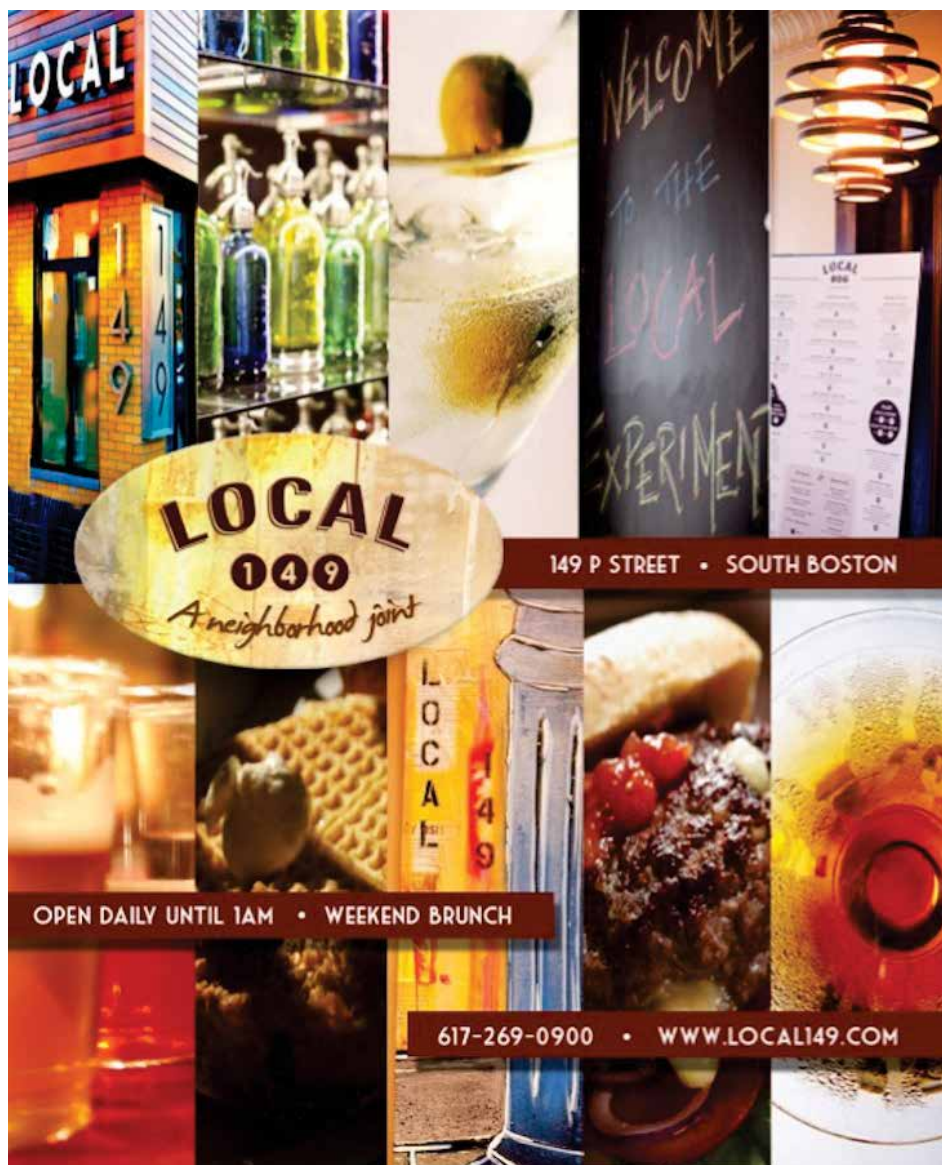
**Brian P. Wallace served in the Massachusetts General Court from 2002 – 2010. His first book "Final Confession" is just being re-released as a paperback to Barnes & Noble and Amazon. Final Confession has been optioned twice. Twentieth Century Fox's George Tillman optioned it first and this year Chris Brinker Productions optioned the book, before his untimely death at 42 years of age. Brian's second book "Night Runner," a novel about the Boston Marathon, is published as a paperback and a kindle book and is available on Amazon.**

**Brian has written a play "From Dorchester Neck to South Boston." His poem about Boston Celtics broadcaster Johnny Most, entitled "High Above Courtside", is featured in Mike Carey's book "The Voice of the Celtics" He appeared in "The Departed" as himself. He was a syndicated columnist for seven Boston weekly newspapers from 1994-1999**

CONTINUED FROM page 12

or sexual orientation. The Allied War Veterans have delivered on that mission, yet continue to be depicted as fools. Media Alert! South Boston and its veterans are no one's fool.

Finally, South Boston Today agrees with the hope expressed by veteran Boston Herald columnist, Joe Fitzgerald, who closed his March 3 column by saying, "So here's hoping he'll (Mayor Walsh) march with or without them (Mass Equality) because, as the son of a couple who came to this country from Galway, he's not only the mayor, but also the personification of what the parade is really all about."







## The 'Pizzeria 260' Recipe: Great Service/Delicious Food

**P**izza. It's truly amazing when you think about it. There are so few things that most people with so many different opinions on everything in creation can agree on. But the odds are that close to 100% of the population of the entire world could agree that pizza tastes good.

Last September, Jim Ivanof opened his brand new Pizzeria 260 restaurant on West Broadway to the delight of his many customers and it's no surprise that it's a big hit in town. Yes, it's a hit because pizza is so popular and an all-time favorite with so many Americans. But the quality of the pizza and everything else on Pizzeria 260's menu is what so many of their customers say is truly "Incredible" and keeps them coming back.

South Boston Today asked Jim Ivanof how business was going and he was happy to say he was pleasantly surprised and it was much better than he even anticipated. But that's what comes when you give customers a delicious product with quick and friendly service. That's what Pizzeria 260 prides itself on.

When you first walk in the front door

you can't help but notice that the place is spotless, bright and welcoming. And at the same time the fantastic aroma of freshly cooked pizza and so many other Italian dishes instantly makes your mouth water. The kitchen is deliberately set up in such a way that you can see right in and watch how your food is being prepared by the hard working and friendly Pizzeria 260 Team. And this is a team that really seems to enjoy what they do. Just ask team member and happy employee Jean Mackey, a local resident who lives right across the street. Jim Ivanof designed and built everything and set up the kitchen this way for exactly this reason. But now comes the hard part - what to order. A look at the menu with such a great variety of selections to choose from could cause some soul searching. What looks good? Well the answer to that is everything looks good because everything is good. The pizza choices are from the standard cheese and pepperoni to the specialty pies which are not only numerous but creative as well. From meat to veggies to any number of combos, all of them are taste treats. You may want

to try the '260' Special'. You can't go wrong with grilled chicken, fresh basil, tomatoes and feta cheese.

If you don't feel like a pizza or want to combine one with something to go along with it, there are their incredible calzones, wraps, Panini, brick oven grinders, salads and so much more. Then there are the pasta dinners to round off a perfect menu. The Chicken Parmesan and the Egg Plant has been getting rave reviews. The dough is prepared right on the premises and everything is made with only the freshest of ingredients.

Pizzeria 260 offers specials and combination meals and will deliver right to your door. They serve lunch specials every Monday through Thursday from 11am to 3pm. You can call by phone to order ahead or place an order online. Delivery hours are from 11am till 9:30pm. The entire operation is set up to be convenient, whether you want to dine right there or get a takeout meal. Oh, did we mention that they will also cater an event for that special event, family gathering, party or banquet? Pizzeria 260 pretty much does it all.

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**  
Staff Report

When asked what about having a restaurant in South Boston he enjoys, without hesitation he says "The customers". Jim enjoys meeting them, serving them, interacting with them and watching them return again and again, because the experience they have is a good one and of course, they like the food. The fact that his customers are a mix of longtime residents, new arrivals and those who come to South Boston to work their jobs and of every age group makes it rewarding for him as well. He is happy to serve everyone. And, he is always open to suggestions as to what new items people would like to see added to the menu.

Pizzeria 260 is located at 260 West Broadway and is open from 11am till 10pm 7 Days a week. They will even be open the day of the parade, March 16th as they are located right on the parade route. The phone number is 617-268-9600, Fax number is 617-765-8867 and their website is [www.pizzeria260.com](http://www.pizzeria260.com). If you have not yet tried Pizzeria 260, why not give it a try. We're betting you'll be in for a pleasant surprise.



Join us . . . .  
**Special Shamrocks  
 Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, March 8, 2014**  
**Cornerstone**  
**7:00 pm**      **\$ 10**  
 Admission



**Drawing  
 March 8, 2014**

**\$ 10**  
 Donation

**For Information Contact:**

**ROBERT PACITTI**      617-910-7728  
**CLAIRE MILLER**      617-293-1463  
**EDIE MORRILL**      617-549-9162  
**STEPHEN MORRILL**      617-905-8258

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## South Boston Arts Association

PRESENTS

**A Fascinating Morning  
 with our Guest Artist of the Day  
 Bill Brett**



**Award-Winning Photographer  
 and Best Selling Author**

**SATURDAY, March 8 - 9:30 a.m.**  
**Curley Rec Room, L Street Bathhouse**  
**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED**

## South Boston Citizens Association Events This Week

The Annual SBCA Evacuation/ St. Patrick's Day **Boxing Show** will be held Friday night at the PAL/ WALSH/McDonough gym. Doors open at 6:00PM. There is a 20 bout schedule. Admission is free, so come out and support these young athletes.

The Annual Tommy and Eddie Butler Senior Salute will be held this Saturday at the lower church hall at 11:00 am. Music provided by The Mike Reynolds band. Admission is free to all seniors, Shuttle service provided by Yankee Bus.

The SBCA **Special Shamrocks** fundraiser to support the South Boston Special kids will be held on Saturday night at the Cornerstone, 16 W. Broadway, S. Boston, Ma. 02127. Raffles, DJ, and Dancing throughout the night.

SBCA **ICE-O-RAMA** is this Sunday

10AM MURPHY RINK. Open to all South Boston children ages 14 and under, Speed skating, Puck Shooting and Miss Ice-O-Rama competition will also take place. Helmets and gloves are required in order to compete in hockey events. Figure skates are a must for Miss Ice-o-Rama competition.

**Basketball Free- Throw** competition will be held at the Tynan School gym on Monday March 10th. Registration is at 6pm.

**Swimming** competition will be held at the Boys and Girls Club pool, Tuesday, March 11th. Registration will begin at 6pm.

On Wednesday, the SBCA has included 2 new events to be held at the Curley Rec. Center, **Bumper Pool** and Ping-Pong for boys and girls ages 7-14. 3:30 PM registration.

## SBCA President McGrath Announces Award Recipients

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath has announced that the Association will present the following awards.

*Presidents Award to Mayor  
 Martin Walsh*

*Executive Board Award to Boston  
 Police Commissioner William Evans  
 John W. McCormack Distinguished  
 Public Service Award to Speaker  
 Robert DeLeo*

*John Joseph Moakley Outstanding  
 Citizen Award to Dan Magoon*

The presentations will take place at the Association's Annual Evacuation Day Banquet, to be held March 14th at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston. "It is with great pleasure that I announce the Association will be recognizing the new Mayor of Boston, Dorchester's Martin J. Walsh, with the President's Award" said McGrath. "The award, which is presented at the discretion of the current and surviving past presidents of the Association, is made in recognition of Mayor Walsh's many years of public service in the state legislature, his success in being elected the city's 54th mayor, and his lifetime of being a close friend and good neighbor to the people of South Boston."

McGrath announced the Association will also honor Commissioner William Evans with the Executive Board Award, Speaker Robert DeLeo with the McCormack Award, and the Moakley Outstanding Citizen Award recipient Dan Magoon.

"We are also delighted to be honoring one the hardest working Speakers Massachusetts has ever had in Bob DeLeo, our new police commissioner and neighbor, Bill Evans, and a true humanitarian and outstanding citizen, our good friend Dan Magoon," McGrath said. "Each has contributed in his own unique way to strengthening the fabric of our town, our city, our state, and our country, and we are delighted to be able to recognize and celebrate their accomplishments."

This year will mark the Association's 134th annual Evacuation Day Banquet and the 238th anniversary of the British Evacuation from Boston, the event commemorated annually by the Association, which holds the honor of being the nation's oldest civic organization. Tickets to the Banquet are still available and can be obtained by calling Tom McGrath at 857-204-5825.



# South Boston Citizens' Association



**Thomas E. McGrath, President**

*“The Nation's Oldest Neighborhood Civic Organization”*

## 238<sup>th</sup> Annual Evacuation Day Events

### 2014 Evacuation Day Committee

*State Representative Nick Collins, General Chairman  
Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, Honorary Chairman  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Honorary Chairman  
State Senator Linda Darcena-Forry, Honorary Chairwoman  
City Council President Bill Linehan, Honorary Chairman  
City Councilor Michael F. Flaherty, Honorary Chairman  
State Auditor Suzanne Bump, Honorary Chairwoman  
Clerk of Courts Michael Donovan, Honorary Chairman*

## March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 17<sup>th</sup>

### Jimmy Flaherty Kick-Off Breakfast

*Saturday, March 1st*  
City Council President Bill Linehan  
Honorary Chairman  
Cornerstone Restaurant 10:00 AM  
Suggested Donation \$ 10.00

### 21+Bowl-A-Rama

*Sunday, March 9th*  
Cheryl Joyce, Andrea Flaherty  
Rich Devoe and Joyce Higgins  
Honorary Chairpersons  
South Boston Bowl 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Must be 21+ to attend-no children, please

### Basketball Free-Throw Competition

*Monday, March 10th*  
Bernie O'Donnell, Kathy Davis & John Hurley  
Honorary Chairpersons  
Tynan Community School Gym - 6:00 PM

### The Swimming Competition

*Tuesday, March 11th*  
Harry Duval, Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Club  
City Council President Bill Linehan  
Honorary Chairman  
Boys & Girls Club Pool  
Registration 6:00 PM, Meet 6:30 PM

### Tom & Eddie Butler

#### Senior Salute *Saturday, March 8th*

City Councilor Michael Flaherty,  
Thomas Butler Jr. Chairmen  
Ann Lynch, Ellie Hart,  
Peggy Flaherty, Edie Linehan, Mary Collins  
Honorary Chairwomen  
Saint Monica's Lower Church Hall - 11:30 AM

### Boxing Show

*Friday, March 7th*  
Register of Deeds Francis “Mickey” Roache,  
Mike Larkin, Peter Welch, Danny Long,  
Arthur Fritch, John McGann, Bill Stoddard  
Honorary Co-Chairmen  
“Stretch” Walsh/McDonough PAL Gym  
6:30 PM

### Ice-O-Rama

John Cuniff Shamrock Shootout  
*Sunday, March 9th*  
City Councilor Frank Baker  
State Senator Linda Darcena-Forry  
John Picariello  
Honorary Chairmen  
Murphy Rink, Day Boulevard  
events begin approx. 9:00 AM

### New This Year

#### Ping Pong & Bumper Pool Competition

*Wednesday, March 12th*  
Fred Ahern & Barbara Caputo Kelly  
Honorary Chairpersons  
Curley Community Center - 4:00 PM

### 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Evacuation Day Banquet

*Friday, March 14th*



BCEC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ballroom  
New England Boiled Dinner  
Entertainment by Curragh's Fancy  
*Reception 5:30 PM-----Dinner 7:00 PM*

FOR TICKETS CALL 857-204-5825

### South Boston Special Shamrocks Fundraiser

*Saturday, March 8th*  
**Presentation of**  
**Mary “Sissy” Devine Award**  
Kathy Morrison, Ellie Flaherty-Kasper, Cathleen  
McGrath, Claire Linehan-Miller, Robert Pacitti  
Honorary Co-Chairpersons  
Cornerstone Restaurant 7:00 PM

### St. Patrick's Day Road Race

*Sunday, March 16th*  
Proceeds benefit  
South Boston Boys & Girls Club  
Pre-registration Required  
617-516-5441 or [hduvall@bgcb.org](mailto:hduvall@bgcb.org)  
Race begins at 11:00 AM at the Club

### Evacuation Day Memorial Mass

*Monday, March 17th*  
Margaret Lynch  
Honorary Chairwoman  
St. Augustine's Chapel - 9:00 AM

### Memorial/Historical Exercises

*Monday, March 17th*  
including  
Essay & Poster Competition Winners  
State Representative Nick Collins  
Bernie O'Donnell, Past President SBCA  
Robert Allison, S.B. Historical Society  
Hon. Michael Donovan  
Hon. Maura Sweeney Doyle  
Honorary Chairpersons  
Dorchester Heights Monument - 10:00 AM

### St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day Parade

*Sunday, March 16th at 1 pm*  
**Phil Wuschke Jr.**  
Allied War Veterans Council  
W. Broadway & Dorchester Ave

### *Our Sponsors*





## History Of The St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
By John Allison

Political breakfasts and luncheons have been part of the festivities on March 17th for almost as long as the parade. Like the parade, though, the meaning, setting, time, and guest list have all changed over the years. Today, we view the Breakfast and other festivities as firm traditions, with strict rules. In reality, the spirit of the day has always been one of experimentation. The parade route has changed, its content has changed, and the organization responsible for it has changed. In the same way, the time of the Breakfast has changed. Its origins are forgotten; it started simply as a breakfast the mayor threw in a hotel downtown before the parade; at one time the Breakfast was actually a luncheon. The Breakfast is truly one of the day's traditions that have meant different things at different times.

The Breakfast originated over a century ago. The first mention of it seems to be from 1909, when Mayor George Hibbard hosted a Breakfast at the Hotel Bellevue at 11 a.m. on the day of the parade. Mayor Hibbard is listed as the host, and the South Boston Gazette refers to it as

the city's Breakfast. Military officers and state and city officials attended. Major General George Davis was present, despite missing the previous evening's banquet, where he had been scheduled to speak. He never showed up at the banquet, instead spending the night in his room at the Hotel Touraine.

While the Breakfast may have been a political gathering, the Gazette says that no speeches were made. It was a very informal affair. It does not seem to have become an annual tradition, since in 1910 and 1911 there is no mention of a breakfast. In the 1910's, some Mayors would host a breakfast and others would not, but it was certainly not an annual event. When the Breakfast was held, the city appropriated funds for the event, which was a trend that continued for many decades.

The Breakfast continued in this fashion until 1921; in that year the Gazette explicitly states that the city's appropriations for Evacuation day did not include money for a breakfast, so it would not be held. We know that the only source of funding for Evacuation Day at this time was the city's appropriation,

and certainly since the Breakfast is always referred to as being given by the city, with the Mayor hosting, the city was the sole sponsor of the Breakfast. The Boston Post mentions a Breakfast in 1920, so it seems 1921 was the first year for some time without a breakfast.

1925 brought a Breakfast, and a parade, with some controversy. The Post Office seized a shipment of shamrocks sent from Ireland and would not allow them in. Civic groups and politicians successfully fought a brief political battle against the Post Office, and the shamrocks were allowed in. The Breakfast also caused some controversy. J. Philip O'Connell, the city's Director of Public Celebrations, reserved 24 of 90 breakfast invitations for city officials. The Evacuation Day Committee complained this did not leave them with enough seats, since the remaining 66 invitations had to be split between various groups.

This dispute shows that not only was this a city event, referred to as the "Mayor's Breakfast for the city's guest," but city funds and city employees were deeply involved in the process. The Breakfast

itself is also interesting, because the guest of honor, Alexander T. Rorke, spoke briefly but saved his voice for that evening's banquet. Mayor Curley also spoke, and made a "witty speech," but the hit of the morning came when E. Mark Sullivan sang "The Wearing of the Green." These traits identify this Breakfast as a very close ancestor of today's event. However, it was still not an annual event. By World War II there was no mention of a breakfast.

It is possible that politicians and visiting dignitaries gathered in still less formal settings before the parade. Indeed, at noon on parade day in 1941 Mayor Tobin and other officials were guests of City Councilor Joseph Scannell. This was less an event than an open house on a chilly parade day, but it reinforces the informality and fluidity of political gatherings on the 17th.

The next hint of a Breakfast comes in March of 1945. The Gazette says that Mayor John Kerrigan's friends were considering holding a reception for him on the morning of the parade. Nothing came of this, principally because Mayor Kerrigan said he did not want any political





demonstrations. The implication is clearly that he considered a reception on the morning of the parade to be an inherently political event, closely mirroring today's Breakfast.

The years immediately following World War II were tumultuous ones for the celebration. The South Boston Citizen's Association had run almost every aspect of the day since the first parade in 1901, when they had convinced the city to use money formerly earmarked for Farragut Day (June 28) to hold an Evacuation Day parade.

The Allied Veterans Council, which was a much larger and younger organization after World War II than ever before, felt they should run the parade. Their argument had merit, since the parade was almost purely a military parade. In 1947 the Allied War Veterans began mobilizing to seize the day. They held corned beef dinners before the parade, one pointedly taking place at the same time as the Citizen's Association Banquet. In 1948 both the Allied Veterans Council and the SBCA nominated a chief marshal. The Mayor traditionally appointed the chief marshal, and Mayor Curley appointed the Veteran's choice. He suggested that the Citizen's Association nominee could be the chief marshal's adjutant.

Cooperation did not always rule the day when it came to organizing the parade, and indeed when the Breakfast was revived this pattern carried over into the political arena. In 1949 the Gazette mentions a luncheon held at noon at Dorgan's Old Harbor for state, city, and county officials. "Following an established custom of years, many state, city, and county officials will attend a

luncheon at noon at Dorgan's Old Harbor House," the Gazette says on March 17, 1949. "This gathering is well worth attending."

Even though the Gazette refers to it as an established custom, there is no mention of a Breakfast in previous years. Given that the Gazette tells people the luncheon "is well worth attending" and that the reporter felt it was necessary to note it was an established custom, it seems that this is the revival of the Breakfast last held over a decade earlier.

The following year the Gazette is even clearer about the luncheon. The front page lists a schedule of events, mentioning the "Mayor's luncheon" at noon. Again the venue is Dorgan's, but it is an invitation-only event. Below the picture of Mayor John B. Hynes on the front page are the words "pays for luncheon." Page five has more information on the luncheon, and those in attendance are referred to as guests of Mayor Hynes. Clearly Hynes hosted the event. The short article also mentions "customary joshing" and a "brief entertainment program," which identifies this luncheon beyond all doubt as the predecessor of the modern Breakfast.

March of 1951 saw an important change in the luncheon. Mayor Hynes and the City Council, along with other guests, had a luncheon at the South Boston Athletic Club. State officials, with Senator John Powers acting as host, dined at Dorgan's. National officials could choose which luncheon to go to, and many guests of both luncheons travelled back and forth between them.

The two luncheons—city and state—seem to have been equally popular and equally significant; and in 1957 especially it seems that the



city luncheon was the place to be. Mayor Hynes hosted it, and the guest of honor was Lord Mayor Robert Briscoe, of Dublin, Ireland. The State luncheon, hosted by Senator Powers, had Governor Foster Furcolo and other State officials.

Throughout the 1950's, while Senator Powers hosted the State luncheon, it was always referred to as being given by the South Boston legislators, with Senator Powers as toastmaster. This seems to be because he was the highest ranking legislator from South Boston, rather than because of the specific office he held at the time. This was still an era when government funds paid for the Breakfast, once that era ended the tradition became whoever was paying hosted the event.

The city luncheon ended after 1960 because of austerity measures; Mayor John Collins attempted to revive it as a "Dutch treat" affair, but the state luncheon became the only show in town. In 1962, Senator Powers paid for the luncheon personally for the first time. The event was not government funded for the first time in its history.

Senator John Powers hosted his final luncheon in 1964. He then stepped down from his position as Senate President to serve as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Suffolk County. With Powers gone, his successor, State Senator Joseph Moakley began hosting the Breakfast. However, the role of host was not nearly as rigid as some would have us believe. In 1965, Moakley's first year of hosting the luncheon, The Boston Globe refers to Representatives William Bulger and James Condon as co-hosts with Moakley. Given that Bulger was a key part of the Breakfast until he



took over hosting duties, one could even say Moakley was co-hosting the event with Bulger.

The 1960's and early 1970's were an era of change for the parade as well as the Breakfast. In 1964, the Boston chapter of the NAACP marched in the parade for the first time. They marched in subsequent years as well. The organizers attempted to keep the parade from becoming politicized by the violence in Ireland; some groups left the parade and started their own downtown. Neither the parade nor the Breakfast remained the same from one year to the next.

In 1972, Moakley was a city councilor, yet the Globe lists him as a host along with Bulger. This is important to note, not only because it shows the flexibility of the host role, but as a reminder that city officials hosted the original breakfasts. In 1972, State Representatives Ray Flynn and Michael Flaherty co-sponsored the Breakfast with Bulger; Flynn of course went on to become Mayor. Flaherty played an active role in future breakfasts; joining Bulger in 1973 to present a mock list of the "Best and Brightest Appointees" to Governor Sargent.

The role of William Bulger as master of ceremonies in many ways made the Breakfast what it is today. As early as 1965 he played a pivotal role in hosting the Breakfast, and he made it his own for decades. In 1970 the Globe mentions his entertaining rendition of "When Clancy Lowered the Boom," and says "Bulger moved the only shillelagh in sight." In 1972 the Globe commented that "In recent years the affair at Dorgan's has teetered on the brink of turning into a stunning virtuoso performance by Bulger..."

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This combination of Bulger's ability to steal the show, along with his long tenure as Senator, created the impression that the way Bulger ran the Breakfast was the way it had always been run. It was also during Bulger's tenure as host that the Breakfast was first televised, and the President of the United States began to call during the Breakfast. These two events solidified the perception of the Breakfast as having rigid rules. Another effect of television was to change the Breakfast, from an event where politicians could "make the kinds of speeches they would make 364 other days of the year if they weren't afraid that their constituents would have them lynched," as the Globe wrote in 1972, into an event where politicians had to be much more careful to avoid alienating anyone.

Bulger hosted the Breakfast until 1996, when he left the Senate. Stephen Lynch, his successor, hosted the Breakfast in 1997. The Globe says that "all eyes were on Lynch" because he was hosting the first

Breakfast in three decades without Bulger, "a political legend and born showman whose name had become synonymous with the Breakfast." Lynch "disarmed skeptics" by acknowledging the change, saying Bulger had, "with his inimitable style and sharp wit," taken the event to "such a high level-from which it will now fall." Everyone agreed Lynch did well hosting the Breakfast. Mayor Menino expressed the general consensus when he said "the new kid performed really well."

Lynch continued to host the Breakfast until his election to Congress. His successor in the Senate, Jack Hart, experienced in 2002 the steep learning curve Lynch had dealt with, but did well with the event. Hart hosted the Breakfast until 2011. He retired from politics, and as a result Councilor Linehan of South Boston hosted the Breakfast in 2012. A City Councilor hosting the Breakfast harkened back to the original breakfasts, which the Mayor hosted for the guests of the city. It was also in keeping with the tradition

of Joe Moakley, who co-hosted the Breakfast while serving as a City Councilor in 1972.

Now we have a Breakfast, and indeed an entire celebration, that we perceive as having a long history. This is true, but it is important to remember that history is the story of change. For much of the parade's history there was no mention of St. Patrick, but the focus was on Evacuation Day. The first parade in 1901 was in celebration of the new Monument on Dorchester Heights. People decorated their homes with American flags. Over time, Irish and Lithuanian decorations mingled with the American ones. For many decades, it was a strictly military parade, and indeed after WWI it was called an "Americanization parade."

As time marches on, everything changes. The Citizen's Association Banquet was at one time the main event, and was even broadcast on the radio in 1941. It goes back further than the parade, and people of national and international importance almost always gave the principal address. The Historical Exercises used to play to packed houses. The Breakfast was an informal gathering thrown by the Mayor if he felt so inclined. There are no rules governing where, when, how, or by whom it can be arranged.

In terms of tradition, the concept of a State Breakfast is much newer than the city Breakfast. For decades, city officials hosted breakfasts and as recently as 1972 Joe Moakley co-hosted the Breakfast as a city councilor. The tradition in some ways was whoever paid for the Breakfast hosted it. It is an event that was never meant to be taken too seriously, but instead as an enjoyable gathering before marching in the parade. Indeed, the one thing that each host of the Breakfast had in common is none have boycotted the parade.

*John Allison is nearly a lifelong resident of South Boston, having moved here as a toddler before beginning his academic career at Tiny Tots. He then attended St. Brigid School, Boston Latin School, and received a degree in history from Suffolk University; he is grateful for the opportunities the community has afforded him, and also for his parent's unfailing support.*

CONTINUED FROM page 9

lion and out like a lamb, but instead serve up some pig? Franklin Southie goes the whole hog and roasts a Suckling pig for you and up to 21 of your closest friends accompanied by sides. Host a Polynesian-style party and sip on some Tiki drinks or enjoy a classic, downhome BBQ spit supported by a flight of bourbons. Either way, Franklin Southie is sure to make you forget all about winter.

The extensive wine list now offers almost 90% of their wines by the glass. Franklin Southie has expert mixologists that take the mundane and making it mouthwatering but are more than happy to hand you a Bud Light and shot of Jameo. And no one knows this better than the industry set. After a long night on the floor or behind the bar, a frozen pizza or bag of Cheez-Its and a lukewarm High Life is not the most enticing or relaxing way to end the night. Franklin Southie has carried on the tradition of being a refuge for the service scene. Orders are taken until 1:30 am and beverages are served until 2am. It no longer freezes out those who want to unwind and enjoy after work but do not have a schedule that corresponds with the standard. Restaurant staff likes to have their coffee klatches too but substitute an espresso martini for a cup of Joe and host it in the latter part of the day.

There is a sort of gravitational pull that draws people to South Boston. It is found in the awe-inspiring views, the smell of the ocean, the smile of a neighbor. This community has worked tirelessly to maintain a standard of life that welcomes all and makes it hard to leave. The same magnetism can be found within the walls of Franklin Southie, where its friendliness draws you in, smells make you stay and its warmth cloaks you like the embrace of an old friend. Concept cannot become reality if it does not have the support of the likeminded. Moving forward towards an unknown future, both South Boston and Franklin Southie, together, will be stalwart but flexible on the uncertain road of life. For it is not the beginning or the end that matter, but what is in the middle that counts most.

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## Breaking Down the AL East

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at [DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com](mailto:DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com)

The Red Sox will be defending their World Series Championship this season, a World Series which came as a surprise to many, as 2013 appeared to be a bridge year for a team that struggled mightily the season prior. Going into the 2014 season, the feeling is similar, that this could be a bridge year for the Sox. But if the 2013 Red Sox were able to reel in a World Series title, there is little reason to believe that they couldn't do it again.

In breaking down the AL East, it's tough to see a team besides the New York Yankees that will be capable of competing with the Sox over the course of 162 games. The offseason for both teams were polar opposites. The Red Sox remained very quiet and added depth to their roster where it was needed, acquiring catcher A.J. Pierzynski, utility infielder Jonathan Herrera, pitcher Chris Capuano, and the oft-injured center fielder Grady Sizemore.

The Red Sox did not spend much after winning the World Series; the Yankees went the opposite direction. The Yankees signed 25 year old Japanese pitching sensation Masahiro Tanaka to a seven year, \$155 million deal. Tanaka pitched seven years in Japan, and last year went 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA, but has absolutely no experience pitching in the MLB. The

pinstripes also signed catcher Brian McCann to a five-year, \$85 million deal. The 29 year old has a .277 batting average and 176 home runs in nine seasons with the Atlanta Braves.

Of course former Sox player Jacoby Ellsbury signed a seven-year \$153 million deal with New York, adding some much needed speed on the base path for an older Yankees lineup. The Yanks also signed Hiroki Kuroda to a one-year deal, and acquired former Met and St. Louis Cardinal, Carlos Beltran. Nevertheless, the Yankees are one injury away from having some serious problems at any position. Mark Teixeira will have to stay healthy in order to solidify an aging lineup, which will no longer feature Robinson Cano or Alex Rodriguez. Also, the Yankees' legendary short stop Derek Jeter only played in 17 games in 2013; no one knows what kind of production to expect out of him.

The Yankees may struggle on the mound as well. C.C. Sabathia had an off year in 2013, going 14-13 with a 4.78 ERA, not good enough for a guy who is supposed to be the ace in New York. Beyond Sabathia, the Yankees will be counting on big seasons from the unproven Masahiro Tanaka, Hideki Kuroda, and talented prospect Ivan Nova. The back end of the rotation is something the Yankees



will look to improve on this season.

For the Sox, the starting rotation is the strongest in the division, with Lester as the number one guy, followed by Clay Buchholz and John Lackey, and rounded out by Jake Peavy and Felix Doubront. Only the Tampa Bay Rays can compete with the Sox starting five. They resigned their ace, David Price, and have a sturdy two through five with the likes of Jeremy Hellickson, Matt Moore, Alex Cobb, and Chris Archer.

Their bullpen can also match up against the Boston bullpen, which features familiar faces from the World Series run. Koji Uehara returns as the closer, the Sox also added depth to the bullpen in acquiring Edward Mujica during the offseason. Junichi Tazawa and Craig Breslow will be back as well. The Rays need to find a consistent closer, but their bullpen is strong with the likes of Heath Bell, Grant Balfour, Joel Peralta, and flamethrower Jake McGee.

When it comes to offensive firepower in the AL East, look no further than the Baltimore Orioles. They added Nelson Cruz in the offseason to gain more pop in the lineup. Cruz was suspended for his use of HGH last season missing 50 games, but having 26 home runs and 77 RBI in a short season. J.J. Hardy at shortstop hit 22 home runs in 2013, center fielder Adam Jones hit 28, and Chris Davis launched 41 homers in 2013 and drove 102 runs in. The issue for the O's is starting pitching. They went out and got Ubaldo Jimenez in

the offseason, he will likely be the number one starter in Baltimore. One you're past Jimenez, you are dealing with Chris Tillman, Wei-Yin Chen, Bud Norris, and Miguel Gonzalez. Not exactly a daunting rotation, and their bullpen doesn't strike fear into opposing batters either.

Toronto usually looks good on paper, but when the regular season hits, it almost never translates onto the field. They have several big bats with Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion each hitting over 30 homers last year, and outfielder Melky Cabrera is no slouch either. The Blue Jays will be relying on Brandon Morrow to carry the starting rotation, which also consists of R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle, and J.A. Happ. The Jays will likely fall to the bottom of a very tough division. Look for Baltimore to make waves this year with what is the most potent offense in the AL East. Expect the Rays to be there come September and October as they always are, thanks to strong pitching and great coaching. And anticipate the Yankee/Red Sox rivalry to heat up in 2014 with the moves New York made to improve their squad during the offseason.

For the Red Sox, they are the most balanced team in the division, they have the most depth of any team in the AL East, and they have a very bright future that we may get to witness the beginning of - with Xander Bogaerts, Jackie Bradley Jr., and Will Middlebrooks looking to leave their mark on the 2014 season.



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\*Every week, we will run part of an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin'", which can be heard LIVE every weekday Noon-2pm on the new DigRadio at DigBoston.com, and on the TuneIn app, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be heard hosting "The Danny Picard Show" weekends on WEEI-93.7 FM. This week, Danny talked NFL with Barstool Sports' Jerry Thornton:

**DANNY PICARD:** As we get through the NFL Franchise Tag deadline, an interesting name that has come up in trade rumors is [Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback] Darrelle Revis. Rumors have the Patriots and Broncos interested in him. Do you see Tampa Bay trading Revis, or is this just a storyline where maybe teams have kicked the tires and it's not realistic. Is Revis going to get moved?

**JERRY THORNTON:** I could see them definitely being interested in moving him, because, for a number of reasons. And not the least of which is, he's eating up \$16 million worth of salary cap. And my thing on Revis for a long time has been that he's good. And at his best, he's really good. Nobody has ever been as good as he's perceived to be. He's just one of those guys that reaches that status where he can almost do no wrong. Like Brett Favre had until his last year or so. Like how Derek Jeter will make an error and it's just, "Oh boy, that ball ate him up," and, "He's captain intangibles." Revis can never give up a completion without it being somebody else's fault. Or, one of his teammates will pick a ball off, and they'll go, "Oh that's because they respect Revis." The guy can play, but no one, no cornerback should be eating up \$16 million worth of cap space on a team that expects to win anything. So, I could see them moving him, and also, there's a time factor here, because their deal with the Jets was, if he's still on [Tampa Bay's] roster by March 13, they owe the Jets a third-round [draft pick]. If he's not, then they only owe the Jets a fourth-rounder. And that's a significant difference. That's the difference between a day two pick and a day three pick. So I can see why they'd want to move him, but

whether they're going to find a dance partner is another thing.

**DP:** You mentioned Revis' salary, and I guess that's the same reason why I think he won't be moved. Because the Patriots wouldn't be able to afford that.

**JT:** They'd have to jettison a ton of very productive players in order to get him. And I just don't see that. He'd have to be willing to restructure. And here's the deal with asking him to restructure, he's like the exact opposite of a guy who's willing to do that. If anything, as soon as you get him here, he's a hold-out just waiting to happen. He did it repeatedly with the Jets, and when he wasn't holding out, he was threatening to hold out. And the Jets kind of created this monster in him, they way they just said he's the best in the world and he's indispensable or whatever. And after that, Danny, what's the one issue that people have with Aqib Talib? His health. He's come off the field the last two AFC Championship games. Well, take a look at Revis' game totals the last three years or so. He's missed a ton of time. If you can guarantee me 16 weeks of [Revis] playing at his best, you know, maybe I can consider that cap hit. But in addition, you're going to have to give up multiple high draft picks, plus meet the cap, and then you're going to be nervous about whether he's going to play, and then there's no guarantee he's not going to hold out and demand even more. So, I just, in no way, shape, or form do I see that working out, unless Darrelle Revis completely changes his attitude about Darrelle Revis.

**DP:** Maybe a guy like Revis went to Tampa, and they're terrible, and he doesn't like being there, and he doesn't like losing the way they lose,

and maybe he's just fed up with it. Maybe that's what changes some guys. Maybe guys need to go to a place like that, and then they say, "You know what, I want to go to a place like New England because I want to win." Do you think there is a possibility that even a guy like that, like Revis, a guy who gets older and the more he's in the league, maybe there's a switch that goes on in his head that says, "I have enough money, I'm still going to be making some. I want to win." Is that a possibility, or are you just completely ruling that out?

**JT:** It's a slim possibility, at best. Generally, a guy like that has shown a willingness in the past to work through this stuff. The Jets were building shrines to him and had to get rid of him. And that was painful to them. I don't think they got back as much in return as they wanted to for him. I don't think they feel like they got nearly as much as they wanted, but it was one of those deals where they had to get rid of him or risk him just walking or sitting out and being disruptive and all that stuff. So he would definitely have to come under the thumb of Bill Belichick. Yeah, we've seen it before. We saw it with Brandon Lloyd. The two aren't exactly comparable, but he took way below market value to come here. He cut his salary by two-thirds. Randy Moss is probably a better example. I mean, he just completely tore up the deal that he had to make the deal happen, and he played here for relative chump change for what we got out of him. I didn't expect Randy Moss to do that. That was a surprise. But I think you get only so many surprises like that in a lifetime.

**DP:** Who would you take, Talib or Revis? Because it would be one or the other, with all the money. What would

you rather see the Patriots do? What's in the Patriots' best on-field interest?

**JT:** In a vacuum, Revis is a better cornerback, flat out. I accept that. But these things don't happen in a vacuum. And I think taking the big picture, what Talib will command, how his health has been relatively better than Revis', and he brings you what he's not going to cost you in draft picks, I'd rather see them work out a deal with Talib. We're all going by rumors and innuendos here, but the conventional wisdom seems to be that the sides have talked, that they've made offers. They talked at the combine, and perhaps are not that far away. Last year I was stunned by what they were able to land Talib for. I was thinking about franchising him then. But the one thing about this Patriots team, Danny, is that they read the market. They know what it is. I was even thinking last year that they might have to franchise Vollmer and pay him elite tackle money. But they got him for a deal filled with incentives and insurances against him being injured. And frankly, they read the market correct on Wes Welker. People say they made him an unfair offer and he walked, but it was probably a better deal in the long-run than what Denver gave him. I thought the guy was going to get three-years north of \$20 million, and he got like two-and-12 or whatever. So I trust the Patriots to know what the market is going to be on Talib, and I also, I don't feel like, given the last couple of years, that teams are going to be too ready to go all-in on Talib and give him a big market deal without incentives and insurances against him getting injured. Hopefully the two sides can work something out.





**DP:** And if you want to look at the market for cornerbacks, the Dolphins just signed 30-year-old cornerback Brent Grimes to a four-year, \$32 million deal. Is that a deal that Talib will use to say, “Hey, I’m two years younger.” Is that a fair look at the market with this Grimes signing?

**JT:** Well, put it this way. When you go down the list of great defensive backs in the league, does Brent Grimes immediately come to mind? I think that’s more a case of the Dolphins being the Dolphins. And I’m going to look forward to Grimes taking \$32 million out of them while Tom Brady continues to pick him apart like he has in the past. It’s not an era of elite defensive backs. The

league has done everything they can to just make these guys illegal and take them out of the game. But if we learned anything last year, if you get good [defensive backs], they can win you a championship. And I think Talib kind of has that element that we see really comes in handy in the postseason, and that’s being physical.

**DP:** This idea that the Patriots could cut Vince Wilfork is outrageous to me. Is this realistic at all that Wilfork wouldn’t be with the Patriots next year? That doesn’t make any sense to me.

**JT:** I’d be very, very surprised. I won’t say “shocked” because if we’ve learned anything, it’s not to be

shocked. I think the last time we had any right to be shocked was Lawyer Milloy, and how did that work out? They won 28 games over the next two years and two Super Bowls. Having said that, [cutting Wilfork] would be one of the more surprising moves they could ever make, if they made it. But, you know, he’s 32. He’s a big guy coming off achilles surgery, and that’s not anything to mess around with. We never know exactly what’s going on inside there, but do the math. I mean, he traveled with the team all last year. And with their blessing, I think they asked him to. And by all accounts, he was like a de facto assistant coach. And those are not the actions of a guy who isn’t part of a team’s future. His

deal is one of those things that was probably written to be restructured right about now. This is a perfect time to do it because you’re not really sure. And frankly, I don’t know that there would be a big market for a guy -- as much as I love Vince -- I don’t think teams are going to be clamoring to get him until we know whether or not he can play. This is an injury that took Terrell Suggs a whole year to come back from. And you’re talking two different body types. So I think they need to proceed cautiously on Wilfork, but that doesn’t mean cut him. I think there’s mutual affection on both sides, and cooler heads will prevail, as far as the business side of it goes.

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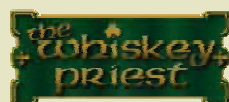
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