

## Principle Trumps Politics - Trust Trumps Ego

Within the South Boston Community - Everyone's Opinion Counts!

This was the guiding principle when, on March 15 2013, conversations were initiated by Brian Mahoney, on behalf of the Allied War Veterans Council and Michael Dowling and Bob Monahan, on behalf of the South Boston Association of Non-Profits, about the strict guidelines of the Evacuation Day parade and the public misperception about the motives and feelings of the Allied War Veterans Council and the South Boston neighborhood.

Because Michael Dowling has

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Parade photos on pages 8 & 9. View more photos at [SouthBostonToday.com](http://SouthBostonToday.com) and on the South Boston Today facebook page. Send your photos to [info@SouthBostonToday.com](mailto:info@SouthBostonToday.com)

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# EDITORIAL

The parade was great. We look forward to an even better one next year. For now, though, it's time to move on. After all we are now at the first day of Spring. There are some folks, who, even at this late date, want to keep the pot boiling. The most recent politique\* refrain is, "It's just a couple of little letters on a sign".

The Allied Veterans couldn't agree more. We just wonder why, if they're just "little letters", people would go to such lengths, including lying and the introduction of a non-existent

veteran's marching unit, in an effort to force those "little letters" into our parade. If these are just "little letters" then drop them, and come join the rest of us in our 'always inclusive' (or 'never not inclusive') Evacuation/St. Patrick's Day celebrations next year.

Either way, we will just have to go on having a great time without you.

\*politique - During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, politiques were those in a position of power who put the success and well-being of their state above all else.



*"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom" - Thomas Jefferson*

See More Parade  
pics on pages 7 & 8



Chief Marshall Brian Mahoney marching in the Parade with his son Brian



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Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

**Publisher**  
John Ciccone

**Editor In Chief**  
Brian R. Mahoney

**Managing Editor**  
Brian P. Wallace

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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# The Information Center



## Reflections on St. Patrick's Day 2014

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**  
John Ciccone

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

It's once again quiet time in the neighborhood. All the great events put on by the South Boston Citizens Association and The Allied War Veterans are over. The streets have been swept, most of the decorations have come down and things are getting back to normal as we patiently wait for the arrival of spring – if it comes.

And of course, in addition to all the holiday props being packed away, we can take comfort in the fact that all the professional agitators, controversy creating reporters, pandering officials and the usual South Boston bashers from outside and, even home-grown, have either left town or moved on to other non-issues that they live to exploit.

The whole controversy surrounding who could march in the parade was, as we all know, concocted. It's not about who's gay and who's not. In fact in never was. The agitators made it so. What it was really about is maintaining the theme of the parade and everyone participating; no exceptions, following the same rules with no one getting special treatment or privilege. It also became about a group, Mass Equality, misrepresenting themselves and looking for publicity as well as public officials who should know better, continuing to support this group even when it was discovered that they were frauds.

Gay persons have always marched and they are always welcome. No one has a problem with it. The problem started again this year when Mass Equality, itching for a fight, didn't feel that they should have to follow the

restriction set forth by the Allied Council that no one: gay, straight or whatever, can carry a sign or banner having anything to do with sexuality. Our veterans would not back down, did not back down and maintained their dignity at all times. That of course, set off the usual posturing for the cameras and sound bytes and vicious attacks.

But in every situation, there can be comedic relief if you just look for it. Mass Equality, shrieking Southie hating and veteran bashing columnists like Peter Gelzinis and Margery Eagan in the Herald and the Cambridge wannabe type websites and blogs, backed up by a few pandering pols and some cowardly boycotting sponsors thought they were putting so much pressure on the Allied War Vets that the vets would have to cave this year. They couldn't possibly hold out with this much power lined up against them they thought. The reality was that the Allied Vets did not even break a sweat fending off the opposition. You see folks, this is the other side's weakness. They think too much of themselves. Their egos are as big as the moon itself. In reality, all the threats, bad press, boycotts and foot stomping didn't matter in the least. None of it rattled these vets in the slightest.

In fact, at times it amused them. The calmer our vets remained and the less attention they gave the agitators and panderers, the more furious they became. Oh yes, there was that 'other' parade; the so called 'Peace Parade'. By most accounts, it was much smaller this year than last. Some police sources say because it was so much

smaller, the marchers seemed to be deliberately walking slower so as to make it seem longer. A nonevent if there ever was one? Che Guevara himself would have been disappointed.

St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation day 2014 was another successful year. We have so much to be thankful for and this neighborhood can be very proud of our Allied War Veterans for doing such an outstanding job. It's refreshing to see that in South Boston, we still have people willing

to stand their ground, when they know they are right.

A well done also goes to The Flaherty Family at the Cornerstone for giving the weak kneed beer company the boot, the many marching units who refused to be bullied into dropping out of the parade and to those elected officials who did march with pride. As for the rest of the elected officials who chose to stay clear, it really didn't matter much. They were not missed.

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## Preparation by Commissioner Evans And The BPD Pays Off *Parade Arrests Well Below Last Year's*

This year only seven men spent St. Patrick's Day in the arraignment session of a Suffolk County courtroom after their arrests at yesterday's parade in South Boston, while arrest warrants issued for three more who failed to appear in court, according to a release from District Attorney Daniel F. Conley's office.

Most defendants arraigned today were released on their own recognizance, except for two whose bails were set at \$500. They will all return to court on various

dates in May and June.

Two defendants arrested yesterday were not arraigned today after failing to appear in court. Judge Michael Bolden ordered warrants to issue for their arrests. They are:

Christopher Danjou of Gloucester, was arrested by Boston Police for drinking in public; and Brett Mirault of Haverhill, was arrested by Boston Police for assault and battery on a public employee and disorderly conduct.

Three more defendants who were arrested only for disorderly conduct and who had no or minimal records

had their cases dismissed on the condition that they perform 40 hours of community service. They were a 20-year-old Lexington man, a 19-year-old Braintree man, and a 19-year-old East Brookfield man.

Prior preparation by the Boston Police Department and an extensive show of police protection along with community outreach and cooperation resulted in a dramatic reduction of arrests and problem behavior. South Boston native Commissioner Bill Evans and his team are to be commended.



## A message from State Rep. Nick Collins General Chairman of Evacuation Day Events

It has been an honor to serve as the General Chairman of the Evacuation Day Festivities and Events. The role of the South Boston Citizens Association in promoting the historical significance of Evacuation Day launched at Dorchester Heights at the dawn of this great country keeps the bravery and sacrifice of our forebears alive in our memories. Sacrifice is the key word. Our many events from games and sports that involve the children and youth to the essay contest, senior salute and community service awards to the parade and civic exercises are held in the spirit of remembering those who paid the ultimate sacrifice back during the Revolutionary War.

Once again, the South Boston Community rises to the occasion and lends its wholehearted support to the dedicated volunteers of the South Boston Citizens Association led by Tom McGrath who strive each and every year to run programs and events that bring people together in an atmosphere of good will and camaraderie.

Thank you for the honor of serving you in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and as this year's Evacuation Day General Chairman.

### CONTINUED FROM Front Page...

lived in South Boston for many years, is a neighbor and friend, and runs a unique program called Medicine Wheel that provides support services to many of our vulnerable youth, he knew that none of the members of the Council would discriminate. Because Bob Monahan has a long South Boston lineage and has led notable organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston and is currently the Executive Director of Julie's Learning Center, he takes the daily pulse of the community and knows many of the Allied War Veteran's families. Because Brian Mahoney has spent a lifetime in South Boston preaching 'community first' on so many fronts – real estate development, youth programs, civic pride, veterans services – authors a popular column and listens to all opinions, even if he disagrees, he knew that the good people and the 70 organizations that make up the Association of Non-Profits represent a legitimate cross-section of South Boston. In other words, these three men knew each other and know this neighborhood.

These leaders realized that the longer the public perception about the parade was allowed to stay alive, unchallenged in a meaningful way, the sooner it would become rooted as reality. Dowling, Monahan and their association members had an idea and Mahoney and the Allied War Veterans were willing to listen. Trust was trumping egoism. Oh, and by the way? It didn't matter that their sexual

orientations may differ.

It is no secret that the South Boston neighborhood has been changing physically, demographically, in ethnicity, and in average income and level of education throughout the last quarter of the 20th century up to today. None of this means, or should mean, that fundamental values have changed. These men recognized the reality of this change and the value system underpinning it. They have all have spent their personal time and their professional careers laboring in the community trying to make this a better place for each other and others. Because of this common interest and trust they set aside the tendency toward egoism and decided to answer the simple question: How do we change perception and produce a result that reflects the change, but honors our values?

Their approach was to first agree on the definition of the word inclusive. And don't you know the dictionary has it right – 'including people of all kinds'. Simple enough. The next was to agree on the definition of a parade. Again, the dictionary has it right – an organized procession of people celebrating a special occasion. Simple enough. The final question remained: How do you express inclusion under the guidelines of the special occasion being celebrated? And here is where the battle between politics and principle, trust and ego takes the measure of one's sincerity of purpose.

It was the sincerity of purpose displayed by each of these community

leaders and the organizations they represented that resulted in a dual expression of diversity and unity within the core message of a parade that honors the founding of our nation and the impact of the Irish heritage on the growth of the great international City of Boston. The overall response to the inclusive theme 'We Are South Boston' accompanied by multi-colored banners stating the words 'We Stand For Inclusion, Unity, Fun, Opportunity, Respect, Community' was welcomed enthusiastically by both parade-goers and local residents noting that it expressed the principle of diversity, yet was accented with respect for the main theme of the parade. The participants were mothers, children, artists, activists, volunteers, and friends who believe that the diversity of residents strengthen the South Boston community in a way that unifies it against negative forces. It's their way of saying, 'we have a great community and you're welcome to it - on our terms. And when you're ready to pitch in, do the hard work of building community, and display a sincerity of purpose that wishes to lift everyone up, then you are welcome to join us, and even challenge us.'

The spirited efforts of Dowling, Monahan and their members, Mahoney and his fellow veterans coincided with the determination of the organizers of a float constructed by Randy Foster, an Iraqi War veteran, and Steve Martin, two gay residents of South Boston active in the community

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# Reading Between The Lines

## “Just Go Away”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Brian R. Mahoney

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

The sun actually rose the day after, although loyal spectators, marchers and organizers knew it would. Just another well run, well attended, commemoration of our Revolutionary war history and commemoration of St. Patrick is in the books.

For some, still in the darkness of discord, it was a divisive day. In particular, the so-called “Veterans for Peace”. Last week, a misprint stated “Tommy Flaherty”, as a leader of that group. It should have read “Tony Flaherty”, no relation to the well known publican and political Flaherty clan. Also a Pat Scanlon should have been named as a “peace” leader, with no known relation to any South Boston Scanlon. Their group, as the root cause of any controversy, is the one who has launched a scurrilous verbal attack on a South Boston non-profit group, just because they dared join in celebration with their own community. After this year’s parade, Scanlon called the real parade “idiotic” for not allowing his “Faux Peace Parade” to march in the “Real Deal”. “Way to offer the olive branch, Pat”. What is “idiotic” is anyone realistically expecting a celebration of an American military victory and its active military veterans to allow any one carrying anti-military, anti American signs to dampen the celebration.

What distorted mind would think the second largest St Patrick’s Day - Evacuation Day parade in America - if not the world -, which stops the entire march at “M” Street Park in order to allow its Chief Marshal to carry on the tradition of placing a wreath of honor and remembrance at the first Vietnam memorial in the

country bearing the names of 25 sons of South Boston, would then allow a ragtag band of malcontents to straggle by with signs denigrating their sacrifice?

If this group of America-hating anarchists had any guts, any courage at all, instead of going after vets whose average age is over 70, and a parade run totally on donations, they would march on down to the Hatch Shell on July 4, 2014. The see what type of reception you would get. How many open arms? After all, that is where those murdering Tsarnaev brothers, who also hated America, originally targeted.

If the Peace Parade really wanted to march proclaiming peace then they would have at least considered the South Boston Allied War Veterans offer of compromise. Or maybe Pat and Tony forgot to tell their membership that the Allied Council suggested you apply to march with a “Veterans for Peace” banner and with up to 100 marchers. Instead that offer was dismissed out of hand.

Disruption for disruption’s sake seems to be their main purpose. Publicly they attach themselves to larger social issues to claim relevance but it’s just a cover. Even their unit the “Smedley Butler Brigade” is a misnomer. Butler was a 33 year Marine who became a Major General and two time recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He later became an outspoken critic of big business, maintaining that American foreign policy, enforced by our military, was a tool of big business. Undoubtedly, in some instances he was correct. He also tended to, perhaps, overestimate or exaggerate. He claimed he had

been chosen by big business to lead a military coup of the government. A charge dismissed by the press, Congress and all allegedly involved. He became an isolationist calling for coastal defense only.

However, Democracy and the Bill of Rights were the only things he stated he would ever fight for. When one considers that the very foundations of the democratic philosophy and the actual Bill of Rights document are based on free speech and the right to privacy, you have to wonder what General

Butler would think.

How would he feel about a group using his name while trying to interfere with and squash the democratic right of free speech at a private event? Logic and history indicate Smedley would be marching with the Allied Veterans. However, enough ink and time have been wasted, enough trees killed for paper, to give these whiners any more space. Hopefully this is the last we ever write of them and they just simply grow up.

*Take care till next week.*

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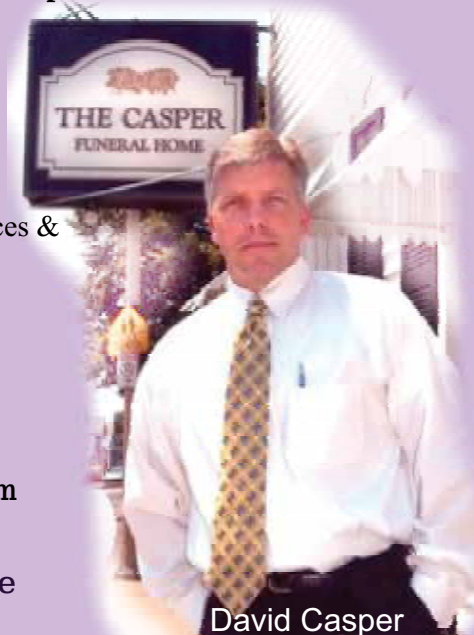
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## Local Probate & Family Law Attorney Martin J. Keogh Announces Candidacy for Suffolk County Register of Probate



“It’s time to bring this office into the 21st century. I will decrease paperwork and wait time by implementing a user-friendly online intake and filing process, expand the use of multilingual forms and applications, and create innovative partnerships to assist families who cannot afford an attorney,” said Keogh.

Keogh has already submitted more than the 1,000 signatures required to get on the ballot. The Democratic primary will take place on Tuesday, September 9, and includes all wards in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

Keogh is the only candidate in the race who is an attorney. He has practiced family and probate law in Suffolk County for over 10 years and has experience managing offices in both the public and private sectors. Keogh and his wife, Pamela, are raising their two young children, Nolan and Penelope in West Roxbury.

**BOSTON** – Martin J. Keogh, an area attorney who practices family and probate law throughout Suffolk County, has announced his intention to run for the position of Suffolk County Register of Probate.

Keogh said, “As an attorney who practices probate and family law in Suffolk County, I see significant changes that must be made to the Register of Probate’s office. If elected, I will be focused on bringing greater efficiency, transparency, and, above all, professionalism to all users of the Probate Court.”

**CONTINUED FROM page 4**

and members of St. Vincent’s Lower End Neighborhood Association, which has none other than Brian Mahoney as one of its founding members. They marched as South Boston residents who have coalesced around building a park in a corner of the neighborhood known as the Lower End. They didn’t want to openly express their sexual orientation, because that was not the purpose of the float nor the purpose of the parade. The reaction of the crowd to the cannons being displayed showed appreciation for the respectful way in which the message was delivered.

Bear in mind this critical point, even with both of these entrants welcomed into this year’s parade, and the yearlong, open and honest dialogue that occurred between Mahoney and the Allied Veterans and Dowling, Monahan and the Association of Non-Profits, the fact of the matter has not changed from the day that Wacko Hurley stated under oath that the Allied War

Veterans Council does not and has not discriminated against persons of any race, color, creed or sexual orientation, only in the messages that run counter to the core themes of the parade. The further and equally critical point is, based upon the feedback and responses’ coming in from many citizens all over the country, what has begun to change is the perception of South Boston and the parade. For the moment, mission accomplished.

Outside forces, who made selfish demands on this community, who leveraged a Boston press corps that is hard pressed to find, let alone exploit, sensationalist storylines except for murder and mayhem, and who let egoism and politics drive their agendas, should take a lesson from the Allied Vets and the Association in this case study on conciliation. When dialogue is rooted in principle, trust and sincerity of purpose, truth finds itself on the same page merging perception and reality.

# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
615 East Sixth St UNIT 5 Condo	\$785,000	02/28/14	5	2	1500
476 East Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$649,000	02/28/14	5	2.5	1998
191 K St UNIT 1 Condo	\$619,000	02/28/14	4	2.5	1107
436 West Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$540,000	02/27/14	5	1.5	1240
492 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$530,000	02/28/14	4	2.5	1375
371-373 Dorchester St UNIT 5 Condo	\$488,000	02/28/14	5	2	1440
231 Dorchester St UNIT 2 Condo	\$465,000	02/28/14	4	2	1000
732 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$450,000	02/28/14	4	1	842
31 Story St UNIT 3 Condo	\$420,000	02/28/14	4	1	711
372 A Dorchester St UNIT 1 Condo	\$418,000	02/28/14	4	2	1000
120 Tudor St UNIT G Condo	\$374,000	02/27/14	4	1	868
140 K St UNIT 3 Condo	\$342,000	02/28/14	4	1	714
33 Lennon Court UNIT 34 Condo	\$325,000	02/28/14	4	1	713
350 West Fourth St UNIT 207 Condo	\$316,000	02/27/14	3	1	544
30 Vinton St UNIT 3 Condo	\$262,500	02/28/14	3	1	611

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## *Thank You South Boston Allied War Veterans Council*

Some things in life are as dependable as the incoming tide and the morning sunrise. Nothing can stop either of them, throw them off course or disrupt their time table. Here in this community

we have an organization that can be counted on to be just as dependable and unstoppable. Once again this year the South Boston Allied War Veteran's Council pulled off a big, beautiful parade that was on schedule; kept to





its route and entertained hundreds of thousands of people and they did it all on their terms. There was never any doubt that they would.

Ignoring the shameful and vicious attacks that turned out to be less effective than a flea to a lion, the council methodically organized and brought in over a 150 marching units. Colorful floats, drum and bugle bands, military squads with accompanying color guards; flags proudly flying in the breeze and all the kid friendly movie and TV characters they could muster; and there were plenty, they flooded the parade route with a magnificent sea of red, white and blue and of course green. The horses, the fire engines, the trick cars and musket firing Colonial militiamen and so much made this day a hit for everyone.

These incredible dedicated veterans volunteer their time months in advance to make sure this parade is one of the finest in the land. They put in long hours; sometimes working day and night going to meetings, lining up participants from other cities and states, raising funds and attending to each and every detail to make sure everything is perfect. In addition to the parade, they work hard to make sure the memorial exercises are set up properly and with military precision and pull it all off with perfection.

The Allied Council, working with the South Boston Citizens' Association, makes sure that the two weeks leading up to the big St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day finale has more than enough activities to appeal to everyone of every age.

South Boston is fortunate indeed to have people like Wacko Hurley, Phil Wuschke, (SBT's own) Brian Mahoney and all the other great members of the South Boston Allied War Veteran's Council who have for so many years, dedicated themselves to this neighborhood. The South Boston Parade of 2014 was another success thanks to these hard working, courageous and unflappable veterans on the 'Council'. Each one of them deserves very special praise. We salute them all and from the bottom of our hearts, we say Thank you!

For more parade photos please visit our website SouthBostonToday.com or the South Boston Today facebook page.







## 12th Annual Taste of South Boston

**T**he South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation (South Boston NDC) will hold its 12th Annual Taste of South Boston on Sunday, March 30, 2014, from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Seaport Hotel. This event has become one of the city's premier food events enjoyed by 500 attendees. For an entrance fee of \$50, attendees can sample food and beverage offerings from over 30 local restaurants while enjoying live music.

This year's event boasts the largest number of participating restaurants, from the traditional South Boston neighborhood, the South Boston Waterfront and the Fort Point areas, including newcomers: Blue Dragon, Row 34, Stephi's, M.C. Spiedo, Tavern Road

and Miam Miam. Returning again this year: American Provisions, Aura Restaurant/Tamo Lounge, Café Porto Bello, Cranberry Café, Empire, Franklin Southie, Jerry Remy's Seaport, Lincoln, Local 149, Legal Harborside, Lucky's Lounge, The Paramount, Salsa's, Salvatore's, Sportello, Strega Waterfront, Sweet Tooth Boston, Temazcal Cantina and Trade. Al's Liquors will be sampling select wines, and Harpoon Brewery will be pouring samples of their latest brews.

Free transportation to and from the Taste of South Boston will be provided by the Southie Shuttle. To reserve your ride, call the Southie Shuttle at 617-268-4110.

South Boston NDC is a recognized 501c(3) that has successfully

developed over 180 units of affordable housing in the community. The Taste of South Boston is South Boston NDC's annual fundraiser. Proceeds from this event support the South Boston NDC's mission to provide affordable housing for working people, families, elderly and Veterans in our community. South Boston NDC and its partner Caritas Communities will begin construction of Patriot Homes, 24 affordable apartments for Veterans this year.

Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.tasteofsouthboston.com](http://www.tasteofsouthboston.com) or at the office of South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation located at 365 West Broadway, South Boston. For general inquiries, email us at: [info@tasteofsouthboston.com](mailto:info@tasteofsouthboston.com) or call 617-268-9610.



## Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash

**S**pring is right around the corner, which means that it's time to register for the 4th Annual Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash to Benefit Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. The Splash will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the BCYF Curley Community Center at M Street Beach in South Boston.

The Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash is tons of fun. Everyone will splash into Boston Harbor and then "warm up" on the beach while enjoying a cold pint of Harpoon Beer. Thanks to friends, partners and sponsors, this year's Splash will be better than ever, with live music, great food from Tasty Burger, plenty of refreshing Harpoon Beer and even more chances to win round-trip tickets on JetBlue Airways and other great prizes.

Last year the Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash raised more than \$30,000 to support free events and programs on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket. This year, with your help, they will crush that goal and raise \$50,000 to fund free concerts and beach festivals, sand sculpting competitions and youth programs in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

You can register at [cupidsplash.com](http://cupidsplash.com)

# SBT

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## 20 14 Boxing Show A Huge Success

**L**ast Friday Night's Boxing Show was a huge success. This year's event, before a standing room only crowd featured 32 bouts with boys and girls of all ages. The show was sponsored by the South Boston Citizens' Association and trophies were given to every boy and girl.

Boxing Show Co-Chairman and Trainers, Peter Welch, Tommy Connors, Danny Long, and Mike Larkin all agreed this years show was one of the best shows ever and clearly the boys and girls brought us a night to remember. This years boxing committee and trainers all did an outstanding job putting this 2014 show together Jimmy LaBlanc, Patrick

Long, Dan Master, Jimbo Curran, Derik Shea, Tommy Dargin and most of all, A special thanks goes out to Tommy McGrath, President of the South Boston Citizens' Association for his tireless work helping to put this show on, and for putting up with the boxing show committee. Along with the 32 bouts, six special

trophies were presented to:  
Most Courageous - Chris Morales  
Outstanding Sportsman - Ian Rosher  
Outstanding Bout - Bobby Delaney and Andrew Hally  
Outstanding Boxer - (under 100 lbs.) Andrew Honohan  
Outstanding Boxer - (over 100 lbs.) James Curry





## Even-Keeled BoSox – No Need To Backtrack On Stephen Drew

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
By Conor Ryan



When the news broke in mid-February that Red Sox pitcher Ryan Dempster would sit out the 2014 season – and perhaps even longer – in order to focus on health and family, a multitude of dominos fell for the defending World Series champions. Not only did Boston clear up the issue of a potential starting rotation – as Dempster was one of six pitchers who was expected to compete for five-man unit during the spring – but the team also saved \$13.25 million, as Dempster relinquished his salary by being placed on the restricted list.

While the Sox now had the resources and flexibility to add another piece to their roster, they were also dealt a tough hand in that it was already the

middle of February, leaving a barren free-agent class for Boston to comb through. However, one enticing name remains out there for the Sox to look at: Stephen Drew. The starter at shortstop for most of the 2013 campaign, Drew's struggles during the postseason, in which he hit a paltry .113 in 16 playoff games, is still a sore memory for many of the Fenway faithful.

Despite his disappointing showing at the plate in October, Drew was a solid presence on the team for a majority of the season, flashing Gold Glove-caliber defense while displaying pop at the plate, clubbing 13 home runs while finishing fourth on the team with 67 RBIs, trailing only David Ortiz, Mike Napoli and

Dustin Pedroia. The idea of bringing Drew back aboard has been debated for weeks now, with critics stating that the left side of the Boston infield has been shored up with Xander Bogaerts and Will Middlebrooks, while Drew supporters proclaiming that the return of a veteran like Drew could be valuable insurance in case any of Boston's promising youngsters slip up.

While bringing another member of the 2013 team back would be a tantalizing offer, it's ultimately counterproductive, as the potential rewards of sticking with Bogaerts and Middlebrooks might outweigh the gains achieved by bringing Drew back. Now, let's be realistic here: Stephen Drew is one of the best defensive shortstops in the league today. Fair to say, both Middlebrooks and Bogaerts are not as highly regarded for their skill with the glove, as both players have been called out for some miscues out in the field during the first two weeks of exhibition games this year.

However, it is important to realize that while both Middlebrooks and Bogaerts are not as impressive as Drew defensively, they are still improving and working on their games.

Middlebrooks in particular has shown that he is taking the steps necessary to hone his skills out on the field. On March 7, just a day after committing a myriad of miscues at the hot corner during a game, Middlebrooks took over 300 grounders at 7 a.m. in an effort to work out the kinks. Yes, No. 16 and No. 2 will not be as good as Drew, but they'll be serviceable. It's not like we're going to see Bogaerts pull an "Edgar Renteria" out there.

While Drew may have the upper hand defensively, it is Middlebrooks' and Bogaerts' potential at the plate that gives them the advantage over the veteran SS.

Middlebrooks was one of the few rays of light during the dreaded

"Bobby Valentine" 2012 season, as the Greenville, Texas native slugged 15 home runs and accumulated 54 RBIs in just 75 games before he was sidelined for the year with a broken wrist.

Middlebrooks could not replicated his success the following season, as he hit .228, struck out 98 times in 348 at-bats and generally showed a lack of plate discipline and ability to handle breaking pitches.

While Middlebrooks value may be low right now, the potential is still there, especially with power hitting corner infielders being such a rare commodity in the league these days. So far this Spring Training, it appears that Middlebrooks has improved at the dish, as he is hitting .308 with two home runs over his first ten games down in Florida. While Middlebrooks will still need to post a solid stat line right out of the gate to put away the critics, the same can't be said for Bogaerts, currently the No. 2 ranked prospect in all of baseball, according to Keith Law of ESPN.

The most hyped BoSox prospect since Hanley Ramirez, Bogaerts seems slated to be a force in the middle of the Boston lineup for years to come thanks to his fluid swing, quick hands and patient approach at the plate. One of the early candidates for AL Rookie of the Year, Bogaerts should be one of the most exciting players to watch this season. At this point, with less than a month until Opening Day, you have to be kicking yourself if you're Stephen Drew. Rather than accept a one-year qualifying offer of \$14 million from Boston, Drew – along with his agent, Scott Boras – took a gamble and lost, declining the offer in pursuit of a larger contract elsewhere in baseball.

Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out so far for the Hahira, Ga. native, as he has yet to find a team. Ultimately, with his skills, both with the bat and the glove, Drew will eventually find a spot with a team – just not with the Sox.





## Gettin' Iggy With It

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

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



The Bruins 4-1 win over the Minnesota Wild on Monday was their ninth in a row. It's the longest winning streak of the year, but the black and gold have exhibited consistency from the start of the 2013-14 season. Rewind to the months following the loss in the Cup Finals, the Bruins began making acquisitions to improve their team. They targeted Loui Eriksson in Dallas, and Jarome Iginla from the free agent pool.

Last season at the trade deadline, Peter Chiarelli was shocked to see Iggy go to the Penguins, a decision which ultimately belonged to the player. That choice left a bitter taste in the mouth of B's fans. Last year, in a short season, Iginla tallied 14 goals and 19 assists between his stints with Pittsburgh and Calgary. He struggled to get things going in Pittsburgh, scoring just nine goals in 28 games, and just four during the Penguins run to the Conference Finals, where the Bruins shut him down completely. What's different about his time in Boston? He acquired in the offseason. He played with the team and his line-mates David Krejci and Milan Lucic through the preseason and regular season. While Bruins fans were sour on

Iginla for picking the Pens, Iginla is a pure first ballot hall of famer with one mission still to be accomplished.

Iginla played in his 1,300th career game Monday night, he scored his 554th and 555th goals of his career, over which he has also accumulated 606 assists, for a whopping 1,161 career points.

Iggy is a model of consistency in the NHL, and it appears to be rubbing off on his line-mates. Lucic and Krejci have been known to "coast" for stretches throughout the regular season, but not this year. The fact the Iginla joined the B's first line is no coincidence. His leadership was beloved in Calgary for 16 seasons, and Boston is starting to see why.

Krejci leads the B's in points with 59, Iginla leads the team in goals with 25. The first line has combined for 62 goals, 104 assists, for 166 points in 68 games. They have set the tone for the rest of the lineup this year, as the Bruins have methodically skated to the top of the Eastern Conference. Not only is Iginla a quiet leader on the team, he's a perfect fit. He's got hall of fame numbers, but he's a gritty player as well. He's dynamic, has a high hockey IQ, and is intelligent in all three zones. He's bought in to the system, and so has the rest of the team. It's only added motivation for Iginla and his teammates to help him capture that final prize. Despite the numbers and accolades, the Cup has eluded him. As the postseason draws near, the more dominant the Bruins become, the more Iggy seems to feel it. During the nine game win streak, he scored eight goals and added three assists for 11 points.

Iginla has certainly found a home in Boston, where his style of play shines and is widely embraced by teammates, coaches, and fans. His will to claim glory may be what can push the Bruins over the hump, which is truly the reason they acquired him - to make the bear hungry again.

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR! BASEBALL SEASON IS HERE!

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Tynan School: Tuesday March 25th 6PM -7PM  
Thursday March 20th , 27th 6 PM- 7 PM

**4 YR OLD TBALL- Every Sunday Starting May 4th – June 22nd 930am @Moakley Park**

**5 YR OLD ROOKIE BALL- Every Sunday Starting May 4th – June 22nd 1030am @Moakley**

**6 YR OLD ROOKIE BALL- Every Sunday beginning May 4th – June 22nd @Moakley Park**

**7 YR OLD (A), MINORS 8-11 & MAJORS 10-12  
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*If you may need extra registration forms, or maybe interested in volunteering.*

*Please visit our website at [www.SouthBostonLittleLeague.com](http://www.SouthBostonLittleLeague.com) and you can download the forms. Please send completed registration form(s) along with payment made payable to South Boston Little League: to PO Box 143 South Boston Ma, 02127. Any questions you may have, please contact us at: [SBLL1952@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SBLL1952@YAHOO.COM)*





**\*Every week, we will run part of an interview from "The Danny Picard Show" which can be heard weekends on WEEI-93.7 FM.**

**This week, Danny talked Patriots with Comcast SportsNet's Mike Giardi:**

**DANNY PICARD:** What was your reaction to Julian Edelman coming back to the Patriots? And when he did go out and test the free-agent market for a few days, did you ever think it was realistic that he wouldn't return to new England, or that it was a possibility that he'd end up somewhere else? Of course, he is returning, so, how did you see all this play out?

**MIKE GIARDI:** I thought that, based on the way it broke down with deadline they gave him and the original offer that was below what he thought was fair, that if he could drum up any kind of offer that was \$2 or \$3 million more than what the Patriots put on the table for him, then he would have been out the door as fast as possible. But I think what we've seen [last] week, is the wide receiver market is much like the cornerback market was a year ago. A lot of pretty good players, or guys that maybe have some question marks but have the potential to be really good players, ended up signing one-year deals, or below-market deals, and would test the market again. When Julian got out [to the market], the money wasn't there. And then it became a question of, "Do I wait around a few more days and maybe risk the fact that the Patriots might get LaFell or maybe get involved with Sanders and maybe price me out of it completely? Or do I not wait on anybody else, go back to the table with the Patriots, see if they can come up a little bit." And when they did, he's got a deal. And look, I'm sure there's some disappointment from him, that he didn't get the cash he wanted. That said, he's got a quarterback who's got a lot of faith in him, and I think we saw last year how much that faith was rewarded. Now they're doing some things to address

the wide receiver position. They hope Amendola is healthy, but Julian Edelman is in a pretty good spot.

**DP:** This doesn't mean Amendola will now get cut, right? Because the options to cut him doesn't make any sense to me, based on the money you still would owe him if you cut him. You might as well keep him around. This isn't the next show to drop.

**MG:** That would be completely foolish [to cut him]. They had him on the calendar, if they wanted to do something before free agency started. They could have done something, and still would have essentially paid him as much to go away as they would have to have him on the roster. I just don't see why anybody would have that thought in their head. I think he plays out this year and then they go from there. Whether he's healthy or not, or whether he proves himself as a trusted guy for Brady, those are all things that he's got to take care of this year. But, I never really bought into the theory that he'd be gone.

**DP:** I was loving the news that Steve Smith could have been coming to the Patriots. This was heart-breaking stuff to me that he's signed with the Baltimore Ravens after being cut by the Carolina Panthers. I would have loved to see Steve Smith in a Patriots uniform. It just goes to show you that the Pats were very interested in bringing him here though. I mean, how many guys does Bill Belichick have personal phone conversations with while that player is in an opposing airport? Obviously the Patriots were genuinely interested and they really wanted Steve Smith before he signed with the Ravens.

**MG:** Oh absolutely. I don't think there's any question that they're not extending themselves to people unless they think that there's a real fit there or

a desire to bring that guy. Look, I don't know how many more years Steve Smith has left in him, but I think you saw last year, in that game in Carolina, what he did to Aqib Talib, not only getting over the top of him and having a pretty good day, but also getting into his head. His mouth doesn't stop running. I don't know if that would necessarily play as well here as it did there, in terms of whether the Patriots coaching staff would accept that. But there's a competitiveness about him that I think Bill and everybody else certainly admires. That guy, he doesn't give an inch, and he'll take whatever he can get. So, from that aspect, he would have been a perfect Patriot, in the sense that, I don't think you're going to find too many guys as competitive as Steve Smith.

**DP:** A name I've been throwing out there for a long time, and as we try to sit here and put ourselves in the Bill Belichick hoodie and make the moves that we think could be next, do you think it could be possible to maybe convince Tony Gonzalez to not go work on TV as an analyst this year?

**MG:** I know that that has been something that came up back at the trade deadline, when Atlanta was out of the mix. He insists that he's not playing. He took the job in TV. I know he's getting paid a good chunk of change to go into TV. It just would seem to me that he's removed himself from the equation. Unless I hear any rumblings otherwise, I'm ruling him out. I don't think that there's any chance that Tony Gonzalez is here.

**DP:** When we look at other potential moves this offseason and we look at the salary cap, we have to then look at Vince Wilfork's contract situation. The Patriots asked him to restructure his crazy \$11 million cap hit. Wilfork says no and asked to be released. [As

of Saturday], where do we stand with the Wilfork situation, and what do you think could happen next?

**MG:** My understanding was that he put in his request [to be released] long ago, and that he made it clear to them that he wasn't willing -- based on the figures that the Patriots were kicking around -- to go in that direction and restructure. The interesting thing here, Danny, is, it's hardcore, but as I kind of ponder this situation, the Patriots don't owe him any favors here. They don't have to release him right now. They can hang onto him. If they want to let some more money get spent and maybe get some teams where they don't want him to go, maybe force those teams to say, "I don't know if they're going to let Vince go." And then maybe those teams will have to go out and spend money elsewhere and take away that spot that Vince maybe would command on their roster. I think it's very interesting to see how that plays out, because obviously, you figure with all he's done for the franchise, you figure they might just say, "Fine." But the fact that nothing has happened [as of Saturday], it makes me wonder if they're going to hang onto him for a little bit, make him twist in the wind, and again, eliminate other options in places that maybe they don't want him to go to. I am guessing that the Wilfork camp already knows what's out there. Much like that I think the Patriots sort of had an idea of what it would take to get a deal done with Darrelle Revis, and that that was a legitimate opportunity that would present itself to them. So, I think Vince has a good idea of what [his market value] would be. He looks at, and again, we don't have any exact numbers as to what they asked him to



do with the extension and how they want to move that money around. But I'm guessing what they're asking him to do, not just for this year, but in years two or three, is essentially below market, or at least, below market for what he feels he deserves. Look, Vince is one of those guys that had to sign that six-year rookie deal. I think the base was \$9 million. There were incentives that could have got him to \$18. I don't think he ever got to \$18. So, they made him play that whole thing out. And then they made him sit and wait. Before he got his big deal, there were all talks about holdouts and things of that nature. They made him sweat and he didn't like it. He should be happy that he got pretty much most of this deal, about 80 percent of this deal. He's got \$32 million of the \$40 that he's made. But money is a big deal to him. It's always been a big deal to him. It's not a big deal for everybody, but he fought for his money, and I don't think that he feels he needs to do them any favors. Because I think he feels like, for the first six years of his career, he was doing them a favor and they never came to him and said, "Let's rip this up and start a new." They made him play it out. He fought for his money. He got it. And now he's not willing to give it up. So he has a feeling that there's money out there for him, and he wants out.

**DP:** Brandon Browner. Before then, Darrelle Revis. Do you think back of the night that Talib signed with Denver around midnight, and then the next morning, think about some reactions that we all had? Did you ever think then that we'd be talking about Revis and Browner joining the

Patriots' secondary after Talib signed with the Broncos?

**MG:** Obviously my first reaction to Talib's deal was, I think like everybody else, it was, "Holy crap." And then it was shortly thereafter that a little birdie texted me that essentially, "[The Patriots] had talked about Revis, and there was legitimate interest there, so don't be surprised if we go down that road." And sure enough, it played out that way. You were sweating a little bit there, but I think that they knew that Revis was going to end up being out there. I think they knew what it was going to cost to sign him. And I think they had a good idea that he wanted to come here. So, I think that that, from their standpoint, made it a little easier to deal with. And I know that people say they made a legit offer to Talib, we're hearing four years, \$40 million. But, no one has shown me the numbers. And all I can say is that when Talib did his press conference in Denver, he made a point of saying a couple times that he really felt wanted in Denver. And "wanted" is equal to dollars in my book. I'm wondering if the Patriots' offer at 4/40 was structured in such a manner that the money wouldn't be realized, or there was a lot of backloaded money that might not get to him. This deal that he signed in Denver was essentially a three-year, \$27 million deal. And they also have the potential to walk away from him for one year, and only have \$4 million of dead money, if it's a complete disaster. SO, I'm just real curious, I know Talib put that on himself, but I'm real curious if we ever get numbers on how they structured Talib's offer in New England.

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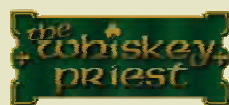
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