



## America Loves St. Peter Academy Girl Scout Cookies

After selling over 2000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies in only two weeks, St Peter Academy Girl Scout Troop #89084 led by Kindergarten Teacher Erin Sawyer appeared on Good Morning America on Wednesday morning at Faneuil Hall. They had the chance to share the spotlight with Anna and Olaf of “Frozen” and GMA’s Ginger Z. The scouting organization emailed Ms. Sawyer inviting her troop and one from Beacon Hill because of their exceptionally hard work.

When asked why she took on the role of Troop Leader, Ms. Sawyer said, “I believe in the Girl Scout mission of ‘making the world a better place’. It

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Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

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girl scouts



South Boston Massachusetts

Girl Scout Troop #89084

Troop #890834 welcomes all girls from South Boston

## EDITORIAL *Southie Residents Get Streets Back Sooner*

**N**ot willing to concede that their application for admittance to the St. Patrick's and Evacuation Day Parade in South Boston has been denied for 'just reasons' over the years, it has taken a US District Court judge's ruling this March 11 to cause Veterans For Peace to cancel their attempt to march in South Boston on Sunday. Considered by many observers to be an anti-war

and anti-government protest group because its public and published pronouncements seem to have radical undertones, this group has been at odds with parade organizers. Old friend, Chester Darling, the legendary attorney for the Allied War Veterans Council, now 90 years old, joined in the argument against the application and in support of the court's action.


The Allied War Veterans

Council has been consistent in its position that participants in the parade have no political or social agenda, but that they have a mission in concert with the festive nature of the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations or honor the service and sacrifice of all brave veterans, who risked life and limb to defend our nation.

We hope that the blend of entertainment and good will

that has always marked our parade is as wonderful as it has always been. The throngs on Broadway will have memories of yet another successful effort by the South Boston community and the veterans to host folks from all over the world. And, we get our streets back a little earlier thanks to Chester Darling and Judge Leo Sorotkin.

*"Good wishes, warm thoughts and honest prayers. May you get blessed on this Saint Patrick's Day. Enjoy" - Roberto Linnelli*



**Marie C. Miller**  
March 18, 1932 – February 3, 2015

**Missing You  
On Your Birthday Mom,**

Today is full of memories  
Happiness and tears,  
Of birthday celebrations  
We've shared throughout the years.

And though I'll always miss you  
The endless joy you brought,  
Warms my heart with gratitude  
And fills my every thought.

Wherever you are resting  
I hope that you can see,  
How precious and uplifting  
Your memory is to me.

I feel that you are with me  
In everything I do,  
So I'll celebrate your birthday  
But I'll spend it missing you.

**Sadly missed and always loved  
by your children,  
Bernadette, Louise, Cecile and Jimmy**

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# The Information Center



## Grateful for Volunteers/Yes, There Are Some Patriotic College Students

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

For generations, volunteerism has come naturally to residents of South Boston. We have always had an abundance of adults to coach this town's many fine youth sports programs, help out with elderly affairs, work hard to support our veteran's causes and assist and come to the aid of neighbors in need. We have teens and other young people who enthusiastically grab brooms, shovels and rakes when our beaches and parks need cleaning and work long hours on weekends during organized cleanups sprucing up the community because they take pride in where they live. Volunteering to many South Bostonians is something they enjoy because well, they like doing it and they see a need.

So it came as no surprise that when the word went out last week asking for volunteers to help clear the giant mounds of snow and ice from the parade route the call was answered. Armed with their shovels and ice choppers they went to work and the task was not easy. Others brought in their own personal Bobcats and other machines and joined right in. A good friend to many; Kevin Loftus when asked why he was there with his bobcat helping out here for free when he could have been elsewhere making money doing the same thing he said the following: "This is our town, it's for our parade and our neighbors so I'm glad to be here." That pretty much says it all. Well done and nice job to the entire crew of volunteers.

As regular readers of this

column know, from time to time I enjoy reporting on the hard to believe stories that take place and the silly people; often hypocrites, involved. This week brings us to Hollywood to highlight a couple of the progressive windbags and airheads who like to preach to the rest of us about how to live but then do pretty much the opposite themselves. First up, in honor of St. Patrick's Day is the popular Irish actor Liam Neeson.

Neeson recently went on a scolding rant putting down Americans and our country's gun laws. Neeson was furious that so many US citizens own firearms and absolutely refuse to even consider giving them up. He trashed our Constitution's Second Amendment and lamented how the American 'gun culture' encourages violence. Question: Have you seen this guy's movies? It would be hard to match the body count that he tallies up as he shoots and kills his way to his big paychecks. It's safe to say that by his actions in his movies, gun violence is anything but discouraged. His new film is called: "Run all Night". In it, his character shoots people from beginning to end.

Next we have the always scowling and lecturing Sean Penn. Penn has been advocating that everyone's firearms be destroyed. Guns, he says are a bad influence on kids. He suggests the best way to do so is to melt them all down and use the metal for other, more peaceful purposes. Well, Penn's latest movie; coming to a theatre near you, is called 'Gunman'. And like Neeson's latest; this film is a

killing fest. These two blowhard Hollywood nitwits obviously don't think they need to practice what they preach. But they should know that no matter how hard they plead for American gun owners to turn their firearms in; it's not going to happen – ever. In fact with the world as dangerous as it has become in the last 6 years and 2 months, gun ownership by law abiding citizens is soaring by leaps and bounds as the public suspects that a time is coming

when they will be the first line of defense for themselves, their families and our country.

And continuing with the wacky, where else but on a college campus in California? As most Americans now know, the student council at the University of California at Irvine voted recently to ban the American flag from the school's lobby. But this time, these particular students; influenced by their left wing professors got

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Get "Fired Up" for St. Patrick's Day!



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## SENATOR FORRY HOSTS 2015 ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST

### Sunday March 15, 2015 at Boston Convention Center in South Boston

State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry will host the annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Sunday, March 15 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Breakfast, which spotlights Irish and Irish-American culture, will be televised in its entirety on New England Cable News (NECN).

Last year marked a milestone in the event's renowned history as Sen. Forry became the first person of color and the first woman to host the Breakfast. The event was widely viewed as a success, as Forry and her colleagues roasted one another and welcomed Ireland's Prime Minister Enda

Kenny to the stage—another first in the event's history.

"I was deeply honored to host last year's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast and I am excited to do it again," said Senator Forry. "This is a time-honored tradition in South Boston — and across New England — and I am grateful to take on the responsibility of organizer and host. We are working hard to make sure that this year's breakfast is a fun and roaring success."

Senator Forry, who represents the First Suffolk district, created a non-profit foundation, the First Suffolk Partnership, to raise the necessary funds to make the event possible. The breakfast will once

again be broadcast live throughout the region by NECN (New England Cable News). Jim Braude, longtime host of "Broadside with Jim Braude" will return to lead the interviews and host the broadcast with analysis by NECN's political reporter, Alison King and news anchor Latoyia Edwards.

The final line-up for this year's breakfast is still in development, but most of the state's most prominent leaders are expected to attend including Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, US Senator Elizabeth Warren and many more. The South Boston elected delegation will all participate in the event.

CONTINUED FROM page 3

the shock of their lives. The backlash from across the country and incredibly, from their fellow students came fast and furious. So intense was the anger at this that the students behind the ban were vetoed and the school apologized. The flag is back.

Ah but it gets better. Many of you have sent around a Facebook flier with the names and pictures of the 6 students behind the original ban. The flier produced by their fellow students. Those six, most from other countries and said to be the recipients of grants to pay for their American education had hoped to remain anonymous. But with social media, they have now become (in) famous as millions of Americans know who they are.

There is a question being asked more and more by American citizens and its worth repeating this week: "Isn't it funny how our county's Flag offends but all the free benefits it gives out don't?"

Here's another question for you: Did you know that if you eat 3 meals a day, you are a racist? This from the senior editor of the kooky liberal media site called 'Mother Jones'. Kiera Butler writes that since the Europeans brought the custom of eating 3 meals a day to the shores of the New World hundreds of years ago and it was not the custom of the American Indians, it is racism to continue this practice. There are no words...

And finally, as we all now know, former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick will be paid \$7,500 per day when he begins working for the Olympics. Apparently arrogant incompetence pays off and he'll get the chance to do for the Olympics what he did for our state: leave it corrupt and nearly a billion dollars in dept.

## 135th Evacuation Day Banquet This Friday Night At BCEC

The Evacuation Day Banquet's capstone event will be this Friday night. Among the over 300 attendees will be local residents, business

leaders, and elected officials including our Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Governor Baker and numerous other state and local

elected leaders.

This year's special award recipients include South Bostonian, Rita McCarthy, who will be presented the John W. McCormack Award for distinguished public service; and South Boston resident Nicole Bollerman, a school teacher at UP Academy, for her unselfish act of kindness after winning \$150,000 contest and donating it back to the school where she teaches, will receive the John Joseph Moakley Outstanding Citizen Award.

Our annual Shamrock Award winners will be Leo Fahey, Business Agent from Pipefitters Local 537, and Noreen Rosher, of the City-Side Civic Association.

As in years past, tables are sold out, but a limited number of individual tickets (50.00) can be purchased at the door, so come on down to join us for a night of good food, good music, good friends and entertaining guest speakers.

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# Reading Between The Lines

## *“The Battle”* The third of a 3-part series on the History of Evacuation Day

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,  
**CONTINUED ON page 31**

### SAVE THE DATES!

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## Rep. Nick Collins, Boston Delegation Seek to Restore Addiction Services

**V**ictory Program President & CEO Jonathan Scott was joined by colleagues Bill Sprague, CEO of Bay Cove Human Services and Tom Bierbaum, CEO of Volunteers of America, at a meeting with the Boston Delegation at the Massachusetts State House to discuss the Commonwealth's opiate epidemic and its impact on Boston. The meeting was called by Boston Delegation Chairman, Representative Nick Collins (D-South Boston) in the House Members Lounge and was attended by over 15 offices.

"It was very important for the members of the Boston Delegation to meet with representatives from those programs that have been adversely impacted by the closure of the Long Island Bridge," said Rep. Collins. "Collectively, these programs provide two-thirds of

Boston's long-term recovery beds for women, as well the city's largest detox unit, which helps over 5,000 people per year. These valuable programs are currently offline as the Commonwealth endures the current opioid crisis and it is our responsibility to help stabilize these vital programs so that they can get back to work saving lives."

"There is a lot of misinformation and confusion regarding the current status of these three vital programs and we wanted to make sure that our Boston delegation was properly informed," said Jonathan Scott, CEO of Victory Programs, Inc. "The Boston delegation's leadership and support can help send the message that will stabilize our agencies and give us time to rebuild."

The Delegation heard from the agencies about the exact nature of

the extreme loss of vital addiction treatment services in the state's network since the closure of their respective agencies on Boston's Long Island on October 8, 2014 and difficulty the agencies face for re-sighting their services. Victory Programs was one of three state funded addiction treatment agencies with programs on Boston's Long Island that was evacuated when the Long Island Bridge closed abruptly.

Victory Programs' Joelyn's Family Home – a 47-bed women's recovery program – was the Commonwealth's largest recovery home program for women. The shuttering of this program and the two others has led to Boston losing 70% of its women's recovery home beds, and 50% of the city's detoxification services.

**ABOUT VICTORY PROGRAMS**  
2015 marks Victory Programs'

40th year of opening doors to hope, health and housing for individuals and families in need. Since its inception in 1975, the agency has expanded to 18 housing and health programs providing shelter and recovery services to 2,300 people annually. Victory Programs has a storied history of responding to emerging needs in the community - from being one of the first agencies in Massachusetts to allow HIV positive clients in its addiction recovery programs in 1981 to opening Chamblet Family Home in the midst of a surge in family homelessness in 2014. Throughout its organizational growth, Victory Programs' commitment to those struggling with homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS always remains its top priority.

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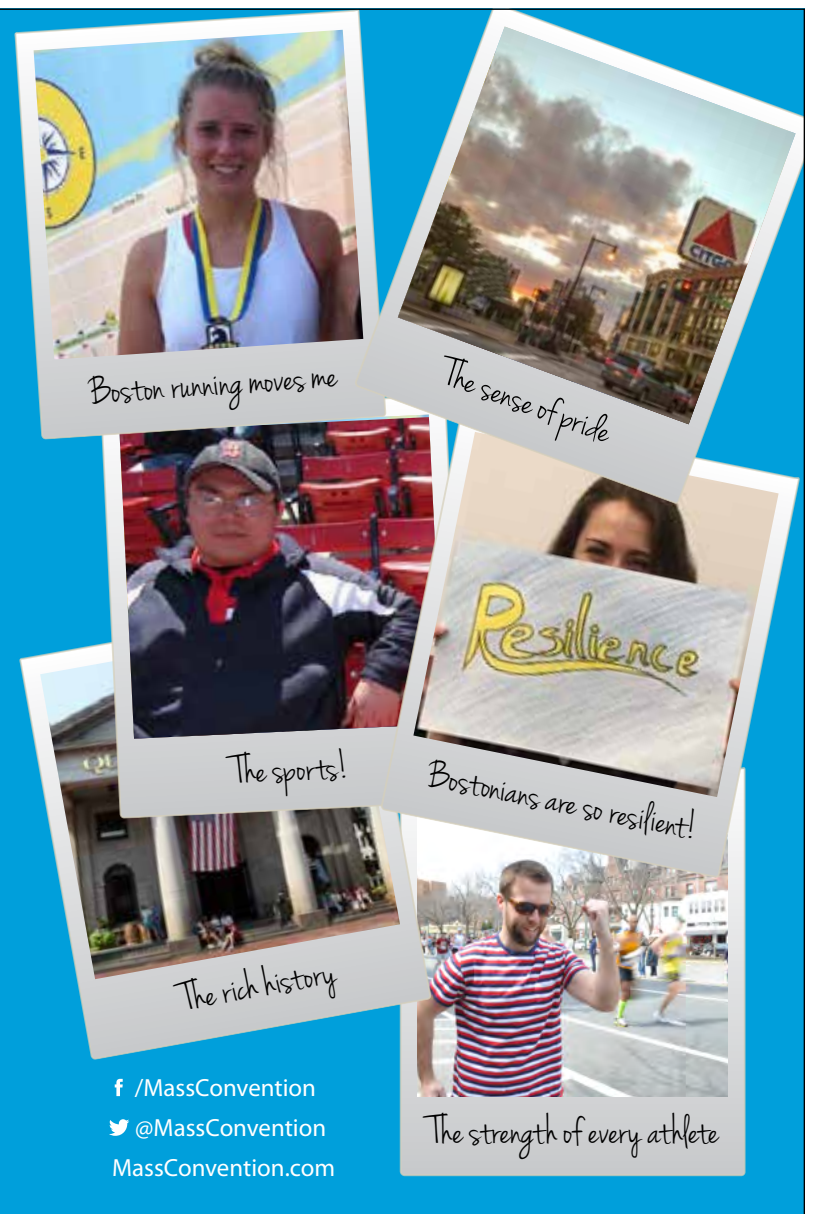
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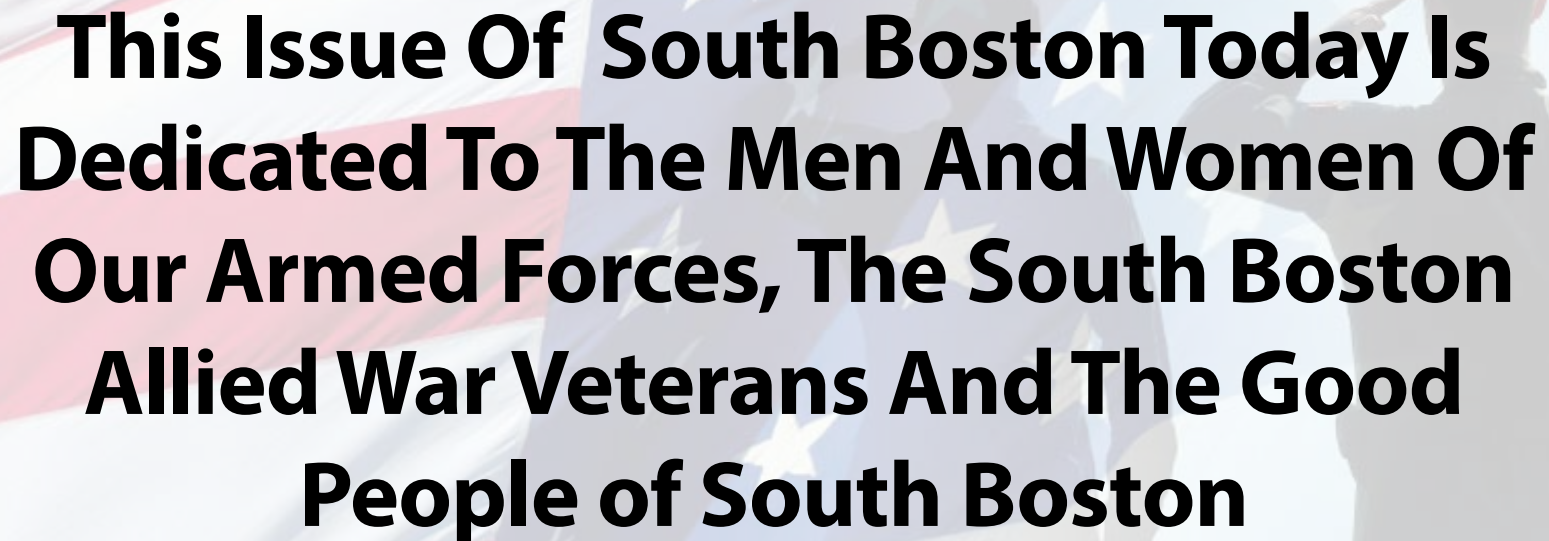




**Happy  
Saint Patrick's Day**



**The  
South Boston Today  
Team**



# **This Issue Of South Boston Today Is Dedicated To The Men And Women Of Our Armed Forces, The South Boston Allied War Veterans And The Good People of South Boston**

## **SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN**

**I WAS BORN DOWN ON A STREET, RAISED UP ON B STREET  
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT  
PERMIT ME TO SHOUT IT, WE'RE THE TOPS FROM MILES AROUND  
WE HAVE DOCTORS & TRAPPERS, PREACHERS & FLAPPERS  
MEN FROM THE OLD COUNTY DOWN  
SAY THEY'LL TAKE YOU & BREAK YOU BUT NEVER FORSAKE YOU  
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN**

**I HAD AN ARGUMENT THE OTHER DAY WITH A GUY FROM OSCALOO  
HE WAS BRAGGIN BOUT HIS OLD HOME TOWN SAYS I TO HIM WHAT TO DO  
I GOT HOT RIGHT UNDER THE COLLAR TO THAT SCHOLAR I DID HOLLAR**

**I WAS BORN DOWN ON A STREET, RAISED UP ON B STREET  
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT  
PERMIT ME TO SHOUT IT, WE'RE THE TOPS FROM MILES AROUND  
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SAY THEY'LL TAKE YOU & BREAK YOU BUT NEVER FORSAKE YOU  
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN**





## What Does South Boston Have That Everyone Wants? – Friendship – Love - Loyalty

**T**he Irish Claddagh Ring has a clear and inviting meaning evident in its design. The Hands symbolize Friendship; the Heart, Love; the Crown, Loyalty.

Openly displaying the symbol is a way to express one's connection to their Irish heritage. For some, it's a subtle expression of pride in having been raised in South Boston. Over time, the reasons for this open expression of connection and pride haven't changed, nor should it. It's part of the allure of South Boston that attracts newcomers to this neighborhood. Legendary sports rivalries, the access to recreational options, the political history, the American history, the civic activism, the neighborliness, and the fighting spirit give context to the cultural dynamic of 'Urban Living', where people that live so close to one another have to find ways to get along and build community. There are many ways to do just this and neighbors, new and old, are involved

and take pride in doing so. They too feel connected.

In South Boston, **Friendship** is manifested in many ways. In the way people treat one another in the community. In supporting families in times of tragedy or loss. In simply helping to shovel a senior citizen out during a snowstorm. In raising money to restore our places of worship. In supporting the Arts Association, the Historical Society and other cultural endeavors.

**Love** is expressed by honoring our veterans through public displays and monuments to their service. By supporting the many charitable and social service organizations that exist to help others less fortunate, especially those fighting addictions. By saluting our seniors and helping them to live safely and independently. By volunteering to coach and mentor our youth to put them on a path to being productive citizens.

**Loyalty** is expressed by supporting and protecting the institutions

that anchor South Boston as a community. By honoring the traditions, the value system and the pride that once provided comfort and security to our ancestors and now insure a high quality of life today. By understanding and accepting our differences without compromising our principles.

When the celebration of Evacuation Day and Saint Patrick's Day is over and the temporary visitors and secret admirers have left us for 364 days, the families, friends and neighbors will go on living side by side, happy and secure. We will also be amused by the knowledge that thousands, if not millions, of people want what we have. However, we are not about to give it away, but we will be glad to share it - but on our terms, not anyone else's.

May the spirit of Claddagh in all of its symbolism bring love, friendship, loyalty into your life! Sprinkle it with a dose of respect and see how far that gets you when you visit this fair town.



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## St. Patrick's Day Facts

**What do you know about St. Patrick's Day?** Here are some interesting facts:

- St. Patrick's Day was set aside to honor St. Patrick but was not on his birthday. It was on the day of his death.
- Besides being a Religious holiday, it has also come to be thought of as the first day of spring to some. Cattle were led to pastures and Irish farmers planted grain.
- In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day often features the old Gaelic sport of hurling. It is something like our field hockey.
- The day's symbol is of course a green shamrock. It looks like a clover with 3 small leaves and is often called a 'trefoil'.
- There is a town in Florida named Shamrock. Every year people send letters and cards there to be postmarked.
- What is a "Shillelagh"? It is an Irish symbol and word for a short, fat oak club.
- Why picture an Irishman wearing a top hat and swinging

a cane? Irish countrymen used to wear a jaunty hat with a high crown, and white socks below tight knee britches.

Below are some Irish American traditional dishes:

1. Corned Beef and Cabbage
2. Irish Stew
3. Irish Soda Bread
4. Mulligatawny Soup
5. Mashed Potatoes with shredded Cabbage (Colcannon).

**The Leprechaun legends are fascinating.** Most leprechauns are said to be rich and have bad tempers. They don't want to live near humans, but if you happen to capture one – don't let him out of your sight. Why? As a ransom, he might tell you where his pot of gold is buried. Of course, it's all in fun so make a fun day of it! Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

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 **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** 





## Some Irish Humor Collected From Our Readers

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of melife and give up me Irish Whiskey!'

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

The man said, 'I do, Father.'

The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.'

Then the priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

'Certainly, Father,' the man replied.

'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.'

The priest said, 'I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'

Paddy was in New York.

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay,

pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?'

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

'Did you see the paper?' asked Gallagher. 'They say I died!!'

'Yes, I saw it!' replied Finney. 'Where are ye callin' from?'

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, 'Sir, have you been drinking?'

'Just water,' says the priest.

The trooper says, 'Then why do I smell wine?'

The priest looks at the bottle and says, 'Good Lord! He's done it again!'

Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, 'Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman.'

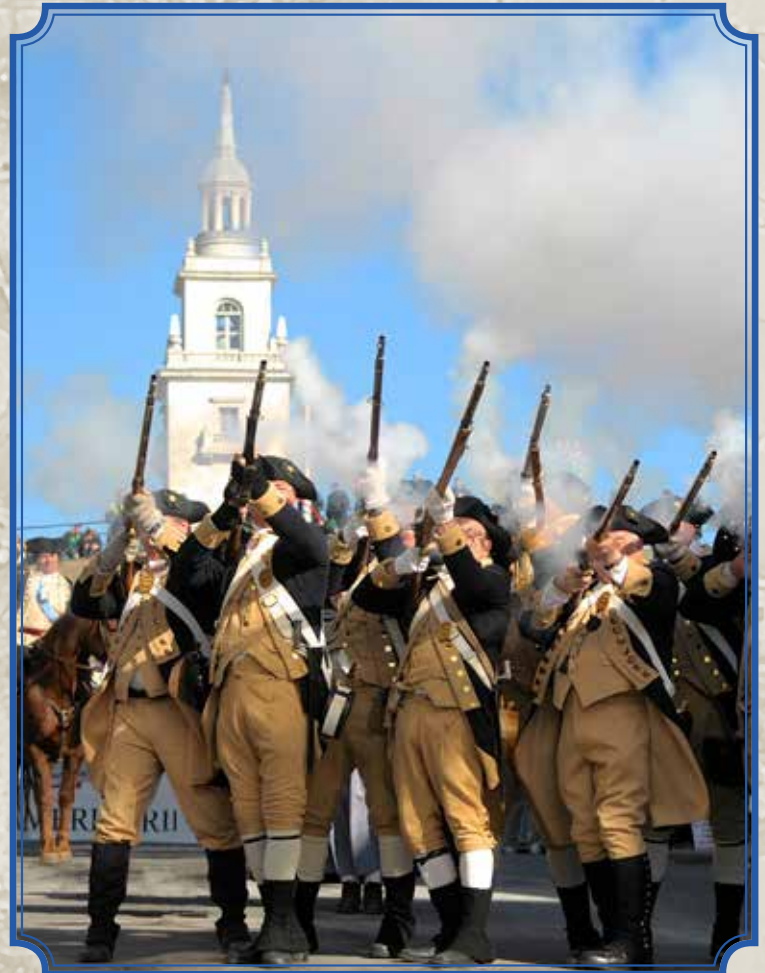
'Oh yeah?' said Charlie, 'And how did this one end?'

'When it was over,' Mike replied, 'She came to me on her hands and knees.'

'Really,' said Charles, 'Now that's a switch! What did she say?'

She said, 'Come out from under the bed, you little chicken.'

## BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION DAY CELEBRATION.



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## Legend of the Celtic Cross

Standing stones have long been the main points of solar cults throughout Europe before the advent of Celtic Christianity. Their shape meant to suggest that they were meant to represent trees which were held in great esteem by the early Celts. The Christianization of the stones by carving crosses on them, a custom said to be introduced by St. Patrick was the start of the Christian presence in Ireland.

It has been said that the most important achievement in the history of Irish sculpture is the Celtic High Cross. These crosses can be identified by a large stone circle intersecting the arms and the upright shaft. From the early days of Irish Christianity, crosses had been set in slabs as symbols of the faith and put up in monastic settlements.

The predecessors of the Irish crosses were possibly the stone crosses erected in North Umbria in the late 7th Century. Figured sculpture became a major element of the crosses. In the early pieces, hunting scenes, with a moral message appeared only on the substantial bases as at Ahenny. In the style of transitional, shafts became covered with relief panels as in the South Cross, Clonmacnois. The use of human figures on the Irish crosses may have been influenced by English ivories. The Columban monastery of Kells, Co Meath, has a transitional cross that being of St. Patrick and St. Columba early

9th century which indeed carries a number of Biblical scenes. The area around Kells appears to have been vital in the development of later high crosses in eastern and Northern Ireland.

The group of central figures of scriptural high crosses has a set religious subject which is based on the themes of Gog's grace to man's and the links between events in the Old and New Testaments. There, ideas relate to the Reformist Celi D movement, with its new great interest in the Scriptures. There crosses look forward to the Irish Romanesque Art Movement and the Celtic culture in general. The best example is the Cross of Muiredach and the West Cross of the Scriptures of Monasterboice in Co Louth. The figures are in this instance cut in sandstone. Figured panels are on the base of the shaft and ornamental panels the narrow face. There is generally a Crucifix on one side with the New Testament scenes in panels beneath; on the other face are the Last Judgment and Old Testament scenes.

The terrible Viking attacks appeared to have stopped the carving of high crosses in the South of Ireland, and later some crosses were erected in the North.

This great development of the Irish Cross indicates the deep and solid Christian faith which the Irish people had and continue to have to the present day.

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# Who Was John Thomas?

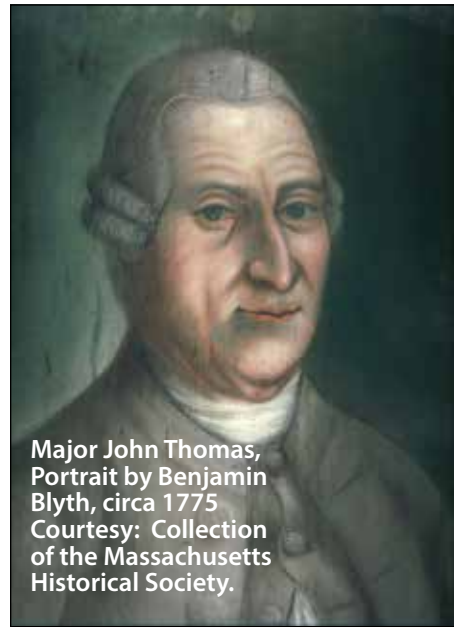
In the middle of our neighborhood sits Thomas Park, surmounted by the elegant Dorchester Heights Monument. We know, if we read the signs, that this oval is named for General John Thomas, who oversaw the fortification of the Heights in March 1776. But who was John Thomas? Why was he overseeing the operation? And what happened afterward?

Thomas had been a doctor in Kingston for fifteen years when he heard the news of Lexington and Concord; he immediately left his wife and three children to join the American forces around Boston. He came with great military experience—in fact, more than any other American-born officer in the fledgling Continental Army.

At age 22, in 1746, he had served as a surgeon and a junior in the Nova Scotia campaign; when he was 31 he was both a company

commander and a surgeon in the siege of the French fortress at Beauséjour, on the Chignecto isthmus connecting Nova Scotia to New Brunswick. After seizing the fort (and renaming it Fort Cumberland), Thomas was part of the force that roused the Acadians from Nova Scotia. By age 35 he was a Colonel, recruiting troops in Boston and Plymouth for Sir Jeffrey Amherst's campaign to take Montreal in 1760. In eight years, Thomas had fought in eight campaigns, becoming an experienced combat officer under the supervision of British officers. He returned home after the war, married Hannah Thomas—no relation, but the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Thomas of Plymouth, who had died in the 1745 siege of Louisbourg.

John and Hannah Thomas settled in Kingston, where their daughter



Major John Thomas,  
Portrait by Benjamin  
Blyth, circa 1775  
Courtesy: Collection  
of the Massachusetts  
Historical Society.

and two sons were born. John Thomas practiced medicine, owned a small trading boat, invested in local industries, and served on the Board of Selectman, as town moderator, assessor, and justice of the peace. Then he heard the news of Lexington and Concord, and came to the scene, where he was put in charge of the forces in Roxbury. He made his headquarters in the

First Church parsonage, on a hill overlooking Boston Neck, the only road in and out of Boston (now Washington Street). The house still stands—the Dillaway-Thomas House, in Roxbury Heritage State Park. While much of the army camped in Cambridge, this southern wing was crucial to keeping the British army besieged. Thomas's skill as both a commander and medical officer showed.

Thomas's "merits in the military way have surprised us all," James Warren wrote to John Adams.

"I can't describe to you the odds between the two camps in Cambridge and Roxbury". The camp in Cambridge, in and around Harvard, was "spiritless, sluggish, confused, and dirty," while Thomas's camp in Roxbury "spirited, active, regular and clean." Thomas himself "appeared with the dignity and abilities of a General."

The Massachusetts Committee of Safety commissioned him a

**CONTINUED IN 7 pages**

# Sláinte!

*Happy St. Patrick's Day  
to our friends and neighbors,  
from the MCCA.*

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# Boston's First Evacuation Day

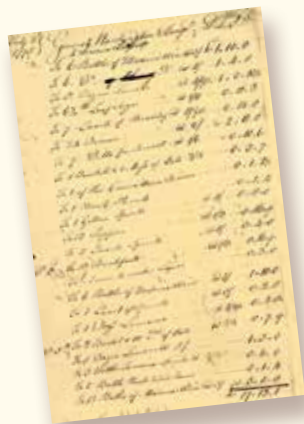
*On March 17, 1776 British troops evacuated the town of Boston, under threat from cannons on Dorchester Heights. It was General George Washington's first victory in the war for American independence.*

## George Washington in Massachusetts

The Revolutionary War started with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775. In Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress met in a crisis atmosphere. Delegates selected Virginia's George Washington to lead an American army and force the British from Boston.



*George Washington by Charles Willson Peale*  
*This 1772 portrait shows Washington as a young man — as he may have appeared during his time in Massachusetts. He wears the uniform of a Virginia militia colonel. Courtesy of Washington and Lee University*



### **Bill from a Springfield Tavern Keeper**

*Boston was a long way from Philadelphia. Along the route Washington stopped at Springfield, Massachusetts. His tavern bill remains in the Massachusetts Archives. "6 bottles of Madeira wine, 5 dozen lemons, 7 quarts of brandy." Massachusetts Archives*

### **A View of Part of the Town of Boston in New England and British Ships of War Landing their Troops! 1768**

*Paul Revere depicted the landing of British troops to quell disorders in Boston. General Washington would force them out in 1776. Massachusetts Archives*





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**BAKER**  **Karyn**  
GOVERNOR LT. GOVERNOR 

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**May the luck of the Irish be with  
you all throughout the year.**

**Happy St. Patrick's Day,  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh**



Paid for and Authorized by the Committee to Elect Martin J. Walsh.



May luck be our companion  
May friends stand by our side  
May history remind us all  
Of Ireland's faith and pride  
May God bless all with happiness  
May love and faith abide.

*Happy St. Patrick Day!*

CONGRESSMAN & MRS.  
**STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

Paid for by Lynch for Congress Committee. Brian Miller, Treasurer

**Deb Goldberg**  
**STATE TREASURER**



**Wishing You a  
Happy St Patrick's Day  
from my family to yours!**  
**-Deb Goldberg**  
**State Treasurer**

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# Seizing the High Ground

Washington quickly saw *the advantages of fortifying Dorchester Heights (in present day South Boston.) Cannons mounted there could “annoy the town” in the words of British General Gage. They could also threaten the British fleet at close range.*

## A Noble Train of Artillery

General Washington dispatched 25 year-old Henry Knox to retrieve British cannons captured by Ethan Allen at Fort Ticonderoga in New York. In an epic journey Knox used oxen and horses to drag the cannons 300 miles over snow and ice to Washington’s headquarters in Cambridge. Knox’s “noble train of artillery” arrived in January 1776.



*The Noble Train of Artillery*  
by Tom Lovell – Reproduced with kind permission of the Dixon Ticonderoga Company. All Rights Reserved.

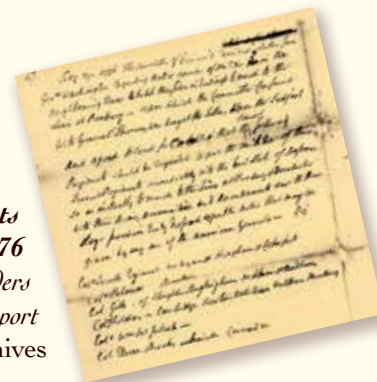


### *Henry Knox by Gilbert Stuart*

*Genial and portly (his weight sometimes exceeded 300 pounds) Henry Knox was a Boston bookseller. He ordered artillery manuals from London, read them eagerly, and lost two fingers experimenting with cannons. Deposited by the City of Boston, 1876  
Courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

### *Washington’s Orders for Dorchester Heights March 1, 1776*

*In this historic document, General Washington orders militia units from surrounding towns to move up and support the taking of Dorchester Heights. Massachusetts Archives*







## Happy St. Patrick's Day



Senator Linda Dorcena Forry

"Grant me a sense of humor, Lord, the saving grace to see a joke, to win some happiness from life, and pass it on to other folks."

-An Irish Blessing



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Linda Dorcena Forry

## HAVE A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

-Irish Blessing



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## Happy St. Patrick's Day

From my family to yours!

May your troubles be less  
Your blessings be more  
and nothing but happiness  
come through your door

*City Council President  
Bill Linehan*



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

**Michael Flaherty**  
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

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# “St. Patrick” was the Password

*On the night of March 4-5, 1776, 3,000 soldiers constructed forts on Dorchester Heights. British officers were astonished the next morning. An admiral warned that his ships “could not possibly remain in the harbor under the fire of the batteries from Dorchester Neck.”*

## Evacuation

British General William Howe believed that honor demanded an attack on the rebel forts. Embarking by boat, his soldiers were blown off course by a violent storm. Realizing that the forts would grow stronger each day Howe ordered preparations for the evacuation of Boston.



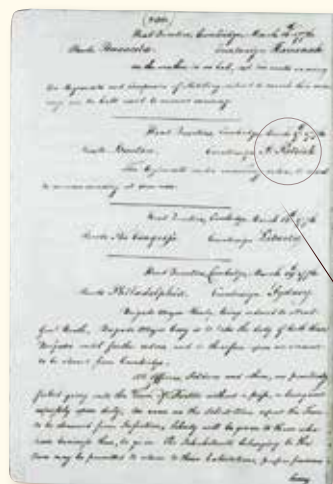
**General Howe Evacuating Boston**  
Courtesy of the Bostonian Society

For days an east wind and heavy rain pinned the British fleet in the harbor. Finally on March 17, 1776 — Saint Patrick's Day — the fleet sailed. Washington selected the phrase “Saint Patrick” as the password that day.

### **Washington on Dorchester Heights by Gilbert Stuart**

*This famous portrait was painted after Washington's death. It shows Washington as Stuart remembered him, a much older man than during the siege of Boston. Art critics are divided on the merits of the horse.*

Deposited by the City of Boston, 1876  
Courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



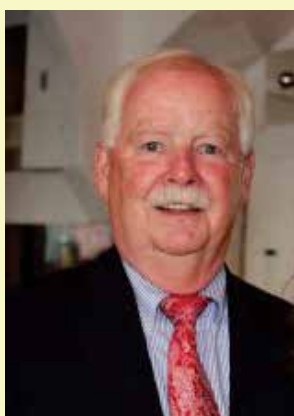
**The password “St. Patrick” appears in George Washington's papers for March 17, 1776.**  
Library of Congress





# Happy Saint Patrick's Day

May joy and peace surround you,  
Contentment latch your door,  
and happiness be with you now  
and bless you evermore!



Michael J. Donovan  
Clerk Magistrate  
Suffolk Superior Civil Court



May God bless us with happiness  
on this very special day.

Erin Go Bragh!

Your friend and neighbor  
Jim Brett

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Sheriff  
Steve Tompkins

# Happy Saint Patrick's Day

from  
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Steven W. Tompkins**  
and the employees of the  
Suffolk County Sheriff's Department



Céad Mile Failte  
Happy Saint Patrick's Day



**Castle Island Association  
C. I. A.**





**Who was John Thomas cont.**

Lieutenant General in May. He oversaw the fortification of Roxbury to prevent the British from either coming out by land, or taking Dorchester Neck. The British attack at Bunker Hill on June 17 was just the first part of a longer campaign to clear the rebel camps from Cambridge and Roxbury—but the colonists inflicted so much damage in Charlestown the British did not venture further.

But while Thomas was fortifying Roxbury, and the Cambridge forces were holding the British in Charlestown, Congress acted to turn these militia men into a Continental Army. They commissioned George Washington as commander in chief, and also named eight brigadier generals to assist him. When Washington arrived in early July, he brought with him commissions for eight brigadier generals. Thomas was not on the list, but two men he

commanded were. This snub was apparent, as by now the other officers regarded Thomas as one of the cause's most capable officers. Abigail Adams worried that "If Thomas resigns, all his officers resign," and Washington wrote Congress that the "much esteemed" Thomas would find it difficult to take orders from men who were his subordinates.

Though Thomas said nothing, other than that if he resigned from the army, he would come back to serve as a volunteer, Washington and the Massachusetts delegates to Congress secured him a commission as brigadier general. He continued in command of the Roxbury forces, preventing the British from leaving by way of Boston Neck in 1775 and early 1776.

On the evening of March 4, Thomas led three thousand men from Roxbury to secure and fortify Dorchester Heights. He had 360 teams of oxen carrying cannon as well as lumber to

build defense works. Then as now, the ground was frozen; the men could not dig, but had to cut down the fruit trees in the orchards of Dorchester and Roxbury to make their barricades. They began at eight in the evening; by ten their fortifications could withstand musketry and grapeshot; by dawn they had placed the cannon and had the British fleet in range. Though General William Howe ordered an attack on March 5, a storm dissipated it, and the British began their process of evacuation.

Though Thomas would be crucial to the British evacuation, he would not stay long in Roxbury. With the British army pinned down in Boston in 1775, Congress had authorized an invasion of Canada; Robert Montgomery had taken Montreal in November, and Benedict Arnold led a force to take Quebec. The Quebec campaign failed.

Robert Montgomery died and Arnold was badly wounded in the siege; Congress commissioned Thomas a major general on March 6 and ordered him north to lead the campaign. He sent his son John, who had run off from Kingston to join his father in Roxbury and Dorchester Heights, back to Kingston and made his way to Canada.

Congress also sent a delegation including Benjamin Franklin and Father John Carroll—later the first American Catholic Bishop—to bring the Canadians into the cause. They failed, and Thomas found the American forces outside Quebec badly organized. More than nine hundred of the two-thousand American s were ill, many with smallpox, and only five hundred were fit for duty, as they tried to besiege a city of five thousand defended by sixteen hundred soldiers, and a British fleet was making its way up the St. Lawrence.

**CONTINUED ON next page**

## Happy Evacuation Day & St. Patrick's Day



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CONTINUED FROM previous page

Thomas ordered a retreat on May 5, and led his suffering army—those not too ill to travel—up the St. Lawrence and then the Richelieu River toward Lake Champlain. There at Fort Chambly he fell ill on May 19, just two months after the evacuation of Boston. Though Dr. Thomas had treated many cases of smallpox, he had neither contracted the disease nor been inoculated. Now he had it, and on June 2 died. That same day he was buried in an unmarked grave with other soldiers struck by the virus.

The army lost one of its most capable officers—an officer with more military experience than Washington. His memory lives on in South Boston.

*Robert J. Allison is president of the South Boston Historical Society, and chairs the History Department at Suffolk University. His most recent book is The American Revolution: A Concise History.*

## Evacuation Day and Memorial/ Historical Exercises on March 17th

South Boston Citizens' Association will be conducting the Annual Memorial/ Historical exercises on Tuesday, March, 17th. A Mass will begin the celebration at St. Augustine's Chapel, the oldest Catholic Church in Boston, and will be celebrated by Father Joe White at 9:00AM. Margret Lynch is the Honorary Chairperson for the Mass.


The exercises will then proceed to the foot of Dorchester Heights (top of Telegraph St.) Approximately 10:00A.M., to observe and celebrate the British evacuation of Boston in 1776 – the first Colonial victory of the Revolutionary War. Henry Knox, a Colonial Colonel at the time, brought




the British cannons from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York. State Representative Nick Collins, Senator Linda Darcena-Forry, Past SBCA President Bernie O'Donnell and South Boston Historical Society's Bob Allison will chair the event.

The Association encourages all to


attend (and bring a friend) to this important part of American History, as they will announce the poster and essay contest winners. Due to conditions at the Heights, the plan is to present awards at the Chapel after Mass. Clerk of Court Maura Doyle will chair the awards presentation.




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The Parting Glass



The Celtic Tiger



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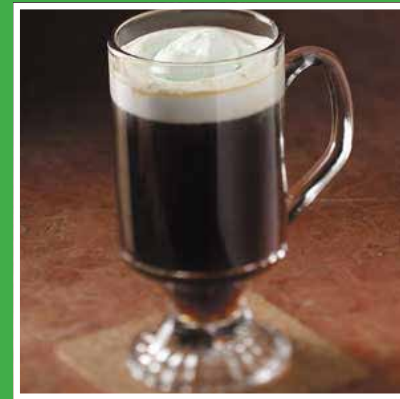
## Grasshopper Shakes

### Ingredients

- 2 quarts vanilla ice cream
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3/4 cup green creme de menthe
- 3/4 cup creme de cacao

### Directions

1. In a blender, cover and process the ingredients in batches until blended. Stir if necessary. Pour into chilled glasses; serve immediately. Yield: 10 servings (2-1/2 quarts).



## Irish Coffee

### Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 ounces Irish whiskey
- 2 cups hot strong brewed coffee (French or other dark roast)
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon green creme de menthe

### Directions

1. Divide sugar and whiskey between two mugs; stir in coffee. In a small bowl, beat cream and creme de menthe until thickened. Gently spoon onto tops of drinks, allowing cream to float. Serve immediately. Yield: 2 servings.

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## Guinness Corned Beef and Cabbage

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds red potatoes, quartered
- 1 pound carrots, cut into 3-inch pieces
- 2 celery ribs, cut into 3-inch pieces
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 1 corned beef brisket with spice packet (3 to 3-1/2 pounds)
- 8 whole cloves
- 6 whole peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) Guinness stout or reduced-sodium beef broth
- 1/2 small head cabbage, thinly sliced
- Prepared horseradish



### Directions

1. In a 6-qt. slow cooker, combine potatoes, carrots, celery and onion. Add corned beef (discard spice packet or save for another use).
2. Place cloves, peppercorns and bay leaf on a double thickness of cheesecloth. Gather corners of cloth to enclose seasonings; tie securely with string. Place in slow cooker. Pour stout over top.
3. Cook, covered, on low 8-10 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender, adding cabbage during the last hour of cooking. Discard spice bag.
4. Cut beef diagonally across the grain into thin slices. Serve beef with vegetables and horseradish. Yield: 9 servings.

## Holiday Pistachio Dessert

### Ingredients

- 1-1/4 cups biscuit/baking mix
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons cold butter
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar, divided
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped, divided
- 2-1/2 cups cold milk
- 2 packages (3.4 ounces each) instant pistachio pudding mix
- Chocolate curls, optional



### Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine the biscuit mix, walnuts and brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
2. Press into an ungreased 13-in. x 9-in. baking pan. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack.
3. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and 1 cup confectioners' sugar until fluffy. Fold in half of the whipped cream; spread over crust. Stir remaining confectioners' sugar into remaining whipped cream; refrigerate until serving.
4. In another bowl, whisk milk and pudding mixes for 2 minutes. Let stand for 2 minutes or until soft-set. Spread over cream cheese layer. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving.
5. Garnish with sweetened whipped cream and, if desired, chocolate curls. Yield: 15 servings.

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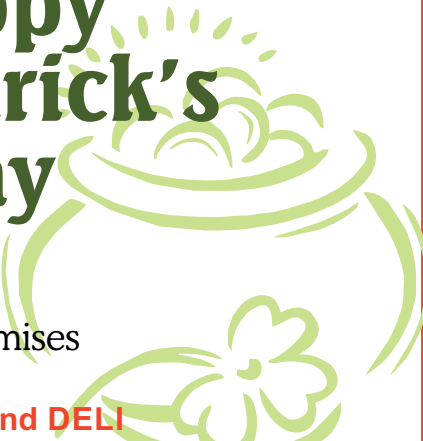
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## First St. Patrick's Day Parade Held In 1737

**T**he first meeting of Irishmen on American soil to honor St. Patrick took place in Boston on March 17th, 1737. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York in 1762. Curiously enough, before marching caught on, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with huge breakfasts, held around 2pm held in local taverns.

Some of these breakfasts were private affairs...others were hosted by the newly formed Irish Friendly Societies. Often, forty of fifty toasts were made in one sitting! A report in the American

newspaper 'The Gazette' in 1766 states: "St. Patrick's Day was ushered in with fife and drum. This produced a very agreeable harmony before the doors of many gentlemen of the Irish nation."

The general tradition of organizing St. Patrick's Day parades originated in the nineteenth century. After New York, Boston had its first parade in 1812. And by the late 1860's, over a dozen American cities had large St. Patrick's Day parades. Just 10 years later, the Irish were the majority in population in New York.

Not surprisingly, it's largely due to the American example that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated throughout the world – even in places where the Irish connection is slight, like New Orleans and Puerto Rico.

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# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
25 Channel Center St UNIT PH107 Condo	\$1,275,000	2/2/15	5	2	1528
123 Farragut Rd UNIT 123 Condo	\$990,000	2/19/15	6	2	2017
503 East First St UNIT 5 Condo	\$839,000	2/3/15	4	2.5	1409
104 G Street Three Family	\$720,000	2/10/15	11	3	2358
24 Vinton Street Two Family	\$710,000	2/17/15	8	3	2076
1-3 Springer Street Single Family	\$700,000	2/6/15	6	1.5	1710
215-219 Athens St UNIT3 Condo	\$650,000	2/5/15	4	2	1200
861 East Second St UNIT 2 Condo	\$638,000	2/11/15	4	2	1690
49 L St UNIT 2 Condo	\$635,000	2/13/15	4	2	1047
215 Athens St UNIT 1 Condo	\$630,000	2/11/15	4	2	1200
215-219 Athens St UNIT2 Condo	\$615,000	2/13/15	4	2	1200
639 E Sixth Street Single Family	\$576,000	2/6/15	6	1.5	1700
9 Broadway UNIT 600 Condo	\$540,000	2/19/15	3	1.5	1032
697 East Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$530,000	2/13/15	4	2	1152
505 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$518,000	2/19/15	5	2	880
505 East Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$492,000	2/9/15	4	2	837
271 Gold Street Single Family	\$455,000	2/4/15	7	2	1400
370 E Eighth Street Single Family	\$433,000	2/5/15	6	1.5	1206

**CONTINUED FROM front page**

is important that young girls learn to build self esteem and that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.” Tatum Donovan, age 5 told Ms. Sawyer that “I couldn’t sleep at all last night and kept waking up and asking my Mom if it was 5:30 am yet.”

Currently, the girls are working on collecting donations for the homeless and our military. The Troop which was just formed this January has 15 Daisies and 3 Brownies from ages 5-8. Girls in Troop 89084 are:

Ruth Siegert - Tatum Donovan - Evelyn Kavinsky - Noelle Haddad - Callan Deane - Eva Germain - Ryliegh Clapham - Jacki Antonelli - Caroline Baker - Elizabeth Stoddard - Elizabeth Demaria

Molly Hearon - Mairin Condon - Chloe McAuliffe - Madison Anastas - Breanna Bayliss - Gigi Ruof

Fiona Darcy

Disney has their photos in their promo on: <http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/blog/galleries/2015/03/giant-sand-castle-in-the-snow-announces-24-hour-party-coolest-summer-ever-at-walt-disney-world-resort/#photo-3>

*St Peter Academy, an independent private school, is celebrating 10 years of service to the community. It is South Boston’s only Pre-K through Grade 8 School. Class size is limited to 20 students which is ideal for creating a nurturing environment filled with interactive learning opportunities. The school is located at 371 West Fourth Street and is currently accepting applications for the 2015 school year – To learn more about the school and all programs visit [www.stpeteracademy.com](http://www.stpeteracademy.com) or schedule a private tour by contacting Ms. Doreen Brown at 617-268-0750 or email [SPA@StPeterAcademy.com](mailto:SPA@StPeterAcademy.com).*

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Photo Credits: James Gavaghan



# Chief Marshall Banquet

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**  
Staff Report

With the blessing of the Pastor of St. Peter's and Allied Veterans" chaplain, Rev. Steve Lukas, Kevin Conroy was installed as the Evacuation/St. Patrick's Day Parade Chief Marshall this past

Sunday in the Lithuanian Club Banquet Hall. The Chief Marshall, at times, seemed overwhelmed by the accolades given him by the officers present. The first Mayor since Ray Flynn, Marty Walsh, to attend the Chief

Marshall Banquet received a warm standing ovation and presented a Paul Revere Bowl to the Chief. Proclamations and other awards were made by Congressman Lynch, Sen. Darcena Forry, Rep. Collins, President Flaherty, as well as a hand-made clock, complete with a Marine Corps emblem, by Butch Shefflet on behalf of the Allied War Veterans Council.

Rep. Collins also told the best joke so far this celebration season. The Representative and both Councilors Linehan and Flaherty were acknowledged for their loyalty and long participation in the parade. The full house consisted of residents, union members, community leaders, long time attendees and family and

friends. The meal received high praise as evidenced by the empty serving dishes. Final ceremonies concluded just after 3 pm.

Now, for the last hectic week, the Chief Marshall will be everywhere representing the town, wearing his Hat of Office. The hat will be new, but Kevin, being out in the community, is not. Through all this winter he's been out raising funds for the parade. Before that, in regular life, he's always using his skill as a bagpiper to liven up community fund raising events.

A true friend and neighbor, it's one way we say thanks by making Kevin leader of our town's most important event. The banquet is his official kickoff.

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# Senior Salute Attracts Record Crowd

*SBCA and Mayor's  
Office Join Hands To  
Make It A Success*

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**

By Luanne O'Connor

**H**osted by the First Mothers of South Boston, Ann Lynch, Peg Flaherty, Mary McCarthy Collins and Mary Walsh with the late Edith 'Edie' Linehan there in spirit, our Seniors were treated to a sumptuous traditional corned beef luncheon from Spinelli Caterers.

St. Monica's was rocking with some 500 guests and entertained by the Mike Reynolds Band and the Peggy Woods School of Irish Dance. The melodious songs were occasionally interrupted by the cacophony of voices of local politicians. In attendance were Councilors Bill Linehan, Michael Flaherty, Stephen Murphy, Frank Baker and Michelle Wu; Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, Rep. Nick Collins and former Councilor Felix Arroyo. Grand Marshall Kevin Conroy, Allied War Veteran's Commander Brian Mahoney, Peggy Kelly, Ann Brennan, Pat Fitzsimmons, Tommy Butler Jr., Bernie O'Donnell, Peter O'Malley, Joe Curran, Rich DeVoe and John Healey were also present.

Giveaways such as shamrock plants, gift certificates, and other gifts were the highlight of the event thanks to Rite Aid, Southie's Own, The Mayor, Dorgan's Liquors, Clear Channel, DiNatale Real Estate and other local merchants.

The Mayor's Office of Elderly Affairs was ably represented by the hard working Mary Beth Kelly of Charlestown, whose team blended nicely with the organizers from South Boston to make this a memorable feast. Upbeat and festive, everyone felt that it was the best party that they had attended in a long time and Irish Eyes were certainly smiling.

Courtesy Photos: City of Boston Mayor's Office.









## Mounds of Snow Removed to Make Way for The Parade Private Contractors and Locals Step Up

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Staff Report

**G**o ahead take a bow. Pat yourself on the back. Certainly this year will be remembered for the snowfall but how the people stood up to it is a large part of that memory.

Front and center is Tim Duross, one of the Allied War Veterans Council parade organizers, whose persistence literally moved mountains - of snow anyways. Tim lit the spark that started volunteers of residents, union workers and private companies to pitch in

Rep. Nick Collins and Councilors Bill Linehan and Mike Flaherty encouraged more private businesses to take responsibility for blocks and blocks of Broadway each and they delivered. Kudos to Feeney Bros., Aeros Snow Removal, GTA Landscaping, American Sweeping Company and MassPort. They stepped up big time. If the same effort had been coordinated three weeks earlier, who knows?

What we do know, "if" is the biggest word in our language. In any event, let's recognize what was accomplished by our community working together and marvel at what was done. When the smoke clears we'll give public thanks to as many others as can be identified. Meanwhile keep shoveling. There's still time to contribute to the parade.



CONTINUED FROM page 5

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 on 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 240 years ago but for the first 130 years it was never observed. This is only the 114th 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 re-claimed by the Government as a military base and is now site of the Convention 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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