



## Honoring Fallen Heroes Has A New Meaning This Memorial Day 2020

Staff Report

Is this any way to, first of all, honor our loved ones and Fallen Heroes with graveside visits, and secondly, to celebrate

CONTINUED ON page 10

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# EDITORIAL

## Violent Felons' Early Release From Prisons Committing More Crimes? Shocking!

The early release of violent prisoners in the stated effort to keep them safe from catching Covid-19 is doing anything but keeping the general public safe. There has been an uptick in crime since this policy was put in place by Suffolk DA Rachael Rollins and far too many times it is being caused by those released prisoners.

At a press conference called last week in response to the shooting of 3 males, one of whom died of his wounds, Rollins stated that there has been a rise in gun crimes dur-

ing the 'pandemic'. To which many citizens have replied – what the h..l did she expect.? Did she actually think that released violent criminals were going to 'shelter in place' and read the Bible?

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross sounded frustrated in response to the criminal activity and the early release of prisoners. He said violent offenders should not be released regardless of the health risks posed by staying incarcerated. "People who have been locked up for violent offenses and carrying a(n) {illegal} firearm should not

be released on personals and I could care less if they get sick in jail or not" Gross stated. "They are a danger to the community..."

That such policies are actually put into play with the expectation that any good would come of it is mind numbing. But even more incredible is the response to the increase by those who implement such policies expressing shock at the results. It brings to mind the recent press conference by New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio, who also released violent prisoners back onto the streets. He also ap-



peared shocked that they were back out committing more violent crimes.

Watching the reaction by DeBlasio and Rollins and likeminded officials in other cities to the tragic results of their actions, highlights just how removed from real-

ity they are and how out of touch they have become with the people they are supposed to be serving and keeping safe. That their political agendas and ideology play a major role in these misguided and dangerous decisions they make is a good bet.

*"Where Flowers Bloom, So Does Hope" - Lady Bird Johnson*

## The Story of the Poppy

The poppy flower only grows in the absence of other flowers and only in ground that has been churned. In perhaps the best-known poem of World War 1, when Dr. John McCrae observed poppies growing between the crosses on the soldiers' graves, it inspired him to write the poem In Flanders Fields. The poppy has since become known as "The Flower of Remembrance" and is worn in memory of our veterans.



## In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



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# The Information Center



## *Do We Have Reason To Be Suspicious?*

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**

John Ciccone

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

I have an apology of sorts to make. In a recent column I quoted ‘data’ from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). I used it as a source for information for diseases and other medical news when writing about Covid-19. I implied that if the CDC says it, it must be fact. I now consider the CDC not always correct. Personally, I no longer trust the CDC to be accurate and I certainly distrust anything the World Health Organization (WHO) has to say. President Trump has threatened to cut off funding to WHO as they are proving to be just a mouth-piece for the Communist government in China. I hope he does and while he’s at it, end funding for the United Nations as well. Neither organization can be considered friends of our country. So the way many see it, there is no need to be floating them with our tax dollars.

An increasing number of Americans are expressing skepticism regarding the actions being taken under the guise of fighting Covid-19. No one doubts that the virus exists. But the fact that there are those in positions of authority, who are actually hoping it stays with us for as long as possible or at least until our economy tanks completely leading up to the November election, gives cause for suspicion. There are governors and mayors and certainly some members of congress who want to keep these ‘lock downs’ and ‘shelter in place’ orders indefinitely. Some governors are proving to be tyrannical, loving this power they are wielding over people and not wanting to let go of it.

Some of these orders by some politicians and so-called medical experts break down to this: ‘Remain terrified, Question nothing, And Stay At Home’. Sorry, but many Americans just can’t buy into that mentality. We refuse to be

terrified, as a free people we have the right to question everything if it smells bad and we will not hide in our homes. It’s just that simple.

In regard to questioning the information we are being given, the real question is why wouldn’t we? From the beginning of the virus, it has been exposed that we’ve been given faulty and inaccurate models, rigged test results, deliberately misleading news reports and manipulated death statistics. Some doctors tell us one thing, while others say something completely different. Whom to believe? Again, when officials try to shame us when we even question their motives, instructions and demands, that tells us we really should question everything.

When they order churches and dentists and all the small businesses to be shut down, but abortion clinics can stay open, yes, many of us get suspicious. To quote a meme going viral on social media – “Even if you’re not conspiracy minded, something in your soul has to be telling you that something isn’t right with any of this”.

More motivation by some in public office to be wary of, and yes, I’m talking about Nancy Pelosi and her ilk and many Blue State governors, is what they are trying to cram into the latest stimulus package. The stimulus money is supposed to be to help American citizens and business get through this situation and in so many cases it’s a matter of survival. Yet, they treat it like a Socialist wish list with, among other goodies they try to slip in, are stimulus checks for illegal aliens, money to prevent the deportations of illegals and with amnesty to go with it, solar energy programs, even more government cash for Planned Parenthood, billions for Vote by Mail, which is considered by a majority of Americans as a Cheat

by Mail scheme; and so many more things that have nothing at all to do with giving financial relief to our citizens in desperate need. Another quote that nails it is this one “A politician that adds anything to the stimulus bill, not directly related to the ‘Pandemic’, is no better than someone who loots during a disaster”. You don’t have to be in the streets smashing windows and stealing TVs to be a looter. You can serve in congress as well. Isn’t that right Nancy Pelosi?

The important thing to remember throughout this Covid-19 situation is

‘Freedom’. Most Americans cherish their freedom. All of us should. It’s one of things that make our country so great. The saying “Once freedom is lost you might not ever get it back” is worth remembering. There are those who would rob us of that freedom forever. We can’t ever let that happen. When the virus is gone, we must make sure we have lost none of it. Hang the ‘New Normal’. And to be blunt, if they try to prevent it, we’ll just have to do what our Founding Fathers did in 1776 – take it back by whatever means necessary.

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## Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

### Baker's reopening balancing act

Gov. Charlie Baker yesterday unveiled his Phase One reopening plan for Massachusetts – and to no one's surprise it takes a cautious approach towards getting the economy restarted while maintaining restrictions to avoid another surge of coronavirus cases. The Globe's Matt Stout and Tim Logan and SHNS's Colin Young (pay wall) have the general Phase One reopening details.

Here's the full report from the administration. CBS Boston and WBUR also have good summaries about what can and can't reopen -- and the numerous safety restrictions attached to the administration's orders. Also, see our post immediately below on how specific industries fare, as well as general-interest reopening items. The reaction of the medical community to Phase One? No surprise: Caution. From the Globe: "Scientists say Baker's reopening plan is sensible, but still concerning." Other reactions are below.

### Industry-by-industry Phase One reopenings (and non-reopenings)

Rather than wading through the Baker administration's Phase One reopening report to find the industry or subject matter that most interests you, here are some stories dealing with specific industries and subject matters of interest. Take your pick.

From WBUR: "Mass. Restaurants Will Open Back Up In 'Phase 2.' When Is That? No One Knows"

From MassLive: "Massachusetts to allow for expanded 'curbside' retail starting May 25 as part of Gov. Charlie Baker's coronavirus reopening plan"

From WCVB: "Massachusetts beaches to reopen Memorial Day, May 25 with restrictions"

From Boston.com: "Hair salons

and barbershops will be allowed to open — by appointment only — on Monday, May 25"

From Boston.com: "Here's the specific reopening guidance for office work in Massachusetts"

From MassLive: "Massachusetts reopening plan for recreational marijuana calls for curbside delivery to start May 25"

From the BBJ: "Many Boston construction sites can reopen today — including the South Station tower"

From the Globe: "Here's what the Mass. reopening plan says about colleges, K-12 schools, and day care"

### The inevitable mixed reactions ...

We were tempted to headline this post "Winner and Losers" but opted for old reliable because the reactions really are mixed. In any event, here are some stories covering the mixed-reactions gamut regarding the governor's reopening announcement yesterday – from WBUR and Wicked Local and the Globe and MetroWest Daily News and the Berkshire Eagle.

And here are some more specific reactions. From MassLive: "There are key areas that require more focus"; Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey responds to state's reopening plan." ... From Commonwealth magazine: "On church reopening, a muted 'amen.'" ... And from MassLive again: "Massachusetts nurses double down on calls for more safety standards in hospitals."

### 'Man in the Middle'

Commonwealth magazine's Michael Jonas writes that Gov. Charlie Baker's moderate instincts and "penchant for cautious incrementalism" served him politically well in the years leading up to the coronavirus crisis – and they appear to be serving him well during the crisis, up to and including yesterday's Phase One reopening announcement. But

the Herald's Joe Battenfeld isn't happy with the governor's balanced middle-man approach. Not at all.

### Moderna's shares soar after it reports positive early-stage test results for vaccine

We're talking very early-stage test results here. Still, the BBJ's Allison DeAngelis has the details on Cambridge-based Moderna Inc's announcement yesterday that its coronavirus vaccine candidate showed positive effects in boosting antibodies in 25 patients. The New York Times has more on Moderna's "glint of hope to a world desperate for ways to stop the pandemic," a glint of hope that also sent the firm's stocks soaring yesterday.

### UMass Amherst announces staff furloughs and buyouts amid 'severe financial pressures'

It's not only small colleges facing financial challenges due to coronavirus crisis. MassLive's Benjamin Kail reports UMass Amherst plans to implement staff furloughs and offer buyout packages as the university deals with "severe financial pressures." How severe are the pressures? The UMass athletic director and football and men's basketball coaches have agreed to 10 percent pay cuts, reports Matt Vautour at MassLive. NCAA Division 1 coaches taking pay cuts? This must be serious.

### Report: State revenues could take a \$6B hit

Speaking of severe financial pressures, amid all the recent surge and partial reopening news, don't forget the state's budget needs addressing by Beacon Hill lawmakers – and it's not looking good. SHNS's Matt Murphy reports on the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation's latest projection of a possible state revenue hit of \$6 billion.

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU20P0744EA

**Commonwealth Of**

**Massachusetts**

**The Trial Court**

**Probate and Family Court**

**Estate of: John J Walsh, Jr.**

**Date of Death: 03/17/2012**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal**

**Appointment of Personal**

**Representative** has been filed by

**Stephen T Walsh of Saint**

**Petersburg FL**

requesting that the Court enter

a formal Decree and Order

and for such other relief as

requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Stephen T Walsh of Saint**

**Petersburg FL** be appointed

as Personal Representative(s)

of said estate to serve **Without**

**Surety** on the bond in **an**

**unsupervised** administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy

of the Petition from the Petitioner

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object to this proceeding. To do

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at this Court before: **10:00 a.m.**

**on the return day of 06/04/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a

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if you object to this proceeding.

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expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,**

**First Justice of this Court.**

May 13, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

**Published May 21, 2020**



# In South Boston, Memorial Day Has That Special, Traditional Meaning

By the South Boston Today Team

Memorial Day is set aside to remember and to honor America's heroes, who served in our country's armed forces and put their lives on the line. Many lost their lives so that all of us could enjoy the freedom and liberty that our Nation's Founding Fathers envisioned for us when they drew up that amazing document called the Constitution of the United States.

South Boston has had many sons and daughters, who never returned from fighting our country's battles. On a per capita scale, there may not be another community anywhere that had more.

This weekend, many people will make that solemn journey to a cemetery, where a family member is buried and lay a wreath or flowers at a grave site. Others will attend a special virtual Church Service, proudly display Old Glory, but will

not attend a Memorial Day dedication or parade due to Covid 19. For Americans, at least in the opinion of South Bostonians, remembering and honoring our veterans, especially those who are no longer among us, should always remain the most important reason for this holiday.

We owe it to those heroes to never forget the sacrifices made on our behalf. It makes us proud that so many of our neighbors never have and never will. And one more thing. If not for those fallen heroes and those who served with them over the last 200 plus years, right up until today, 2020, the United States of America would not exist. So, when or if you are out and about this coming Memorial Day weekend, if you are approached by a veteran asking for a donation for worthy veteran's causes and offering you a red 'poppy' in return, why not reach into your pocket and donate what you can and thank them for their service. This gesture of gratitude is very much appreciated by

those who served and continue to serve our great country.

From all of us here at South Boston Today, Honor Memorial Day!

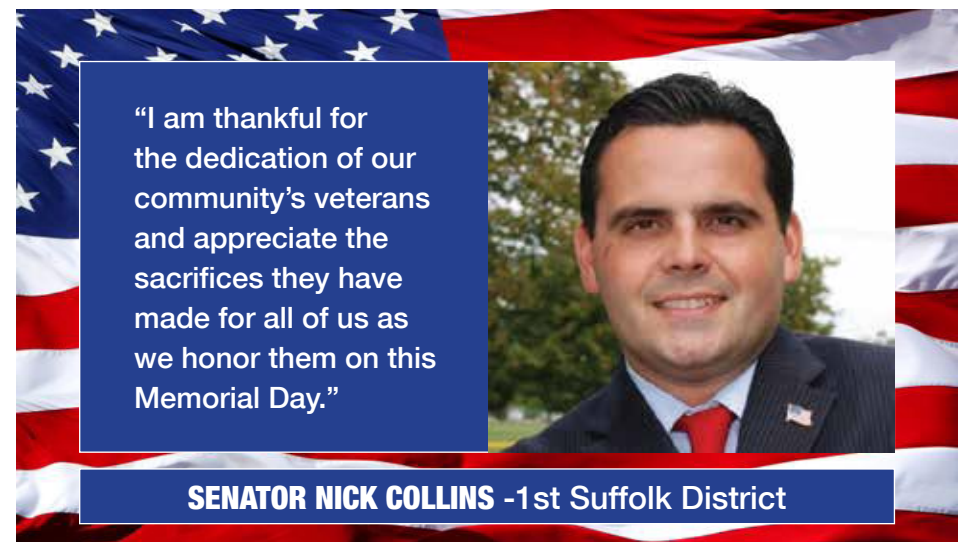


## IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM.



Congressman  
**Stephen F. Lynch**


Paid for by Lynch for Congress. Nancy Conroy, Treasurer



"I am thankful for the dedication of our community's veterans and appreciate the sacrifices they have made for all of us as we honor them on this Memorial Day."

**SENATOR NICK COLLINS -1st Suffolk District**

"On this solemn Memorial Day, we honor those who have made the Supreme Sacrifice for our nation to preserve freedom and democracy throughout the world."



**Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, District 2**

"On Memorial Day, we remember those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. May God bless our fallen heroes and their families, and let us always remember those who served and gave their lives for us and the freedoms we enjoy."



**David Biele**  
State Representative  
4th Suffolk District



# The Wine Guy Phase One Wines



Since the Governor came out earlier this week with the proposed re-opening of Massachusetts, I thought that this week's column should also be about wines that are good to have at the beginning, although I certainly don't want to put all the conditions that he did on enjoying them. Think of the following as "Phase One, with Enjoyment".

*Pichot Vouvray, Touraine, Loire Valley, France, (\$18.99)*, is a

beautiful Chenin Blanc that offers ripe peach, melon and honeyed tones. Soft and round, this lightly sweet wine appeals to the novice as well as seasoned wine veterans because while it's naturally dry, there's also a pleasant hint of fruit flavors on the finish. Have this one the way the French do—with a hearty plate of cheese and fresh fruits at the start of any meal.

California's Amador County is much more known for its stunning Zinfandel wines; however, the Terra D'Oro Vineyards also feature an aperitif wine that's becoming more and more popular. It's their **2019 Terra D'Oro Moscato, Amador County, California, (\$13.99)**.

This Moscato has intoxicating aromas of perfumed peach blossom and fresh honeysuckle. A sweet, creamy lemon cheesecake flavor is accompanied by bright fresh apricot and white peach fruit on the palate. Crisp acidity keeps the mouthfeel rich and balanced with lingering notes of rose petal on the finish and is perfectly paired to fresh fruit desserts or with spicy Thai or Indian dishes.

If something sparkling is more your preference, get some *Canti*

*Prosecco, NV, Veneto Italy, (\$12.79)*. This one is light straw yellow with fine and persistent perlage. Made from the Glera grape, this is a dry and pleasantly fruity prosecco, ideal as an aperitif and during the whole meal. Prosecco is not only the name of a village in Italy's Veneto, it's also the designation of a whole growing region and in that region, natives prefer it for all three meals, especially late Sunday lunches. Try a glass or two with a touch of Black Raspberry liquor and a lemon peel. Tasty!

While you may not think of it as a starter wine, Icewine, the thick, rich sweet white wine grown originally in Germany and Austria, is a globally-consumed and globally-grown varietal. From the Niagara region of Canada, **Jackson-Triggs Vidal Icewine, Niagara Basin, Canada, (\$21.99/187ml.)** is a fantastic starter for any meal. It's rich and concentrated, with fresh tropical aromas of papaya, mango and apricot. Bold fruit flavours balanced with fine acidity caress the palate and conclude with an exquisite, silky finish. Try it with some strong cheeses or broiled scallops, it's really fantastic!



Finally, since we apparently have something to celebrate, why not do it with our home-grown Sparkling Wine, **Westport Rivers Sparkling Wine, NV, Southeast Massachusetts, (\$19.99)?**

If you've never had it, prepare to be surprised! It's just outstanding juice for the money and I'm sure they'll appreciate the business- if they're open during Phase One, that is.

**Talk to The Wine Guy at [jdris8888@gmail.com](mailto:jdris8888@gmail.com)**

## Another Southie Landmark Gone... Mul's Diner Will Be Missed

Construction and demolition are constant activities in South Boston over the past several years and more. South Bostonians often watch with sadness as stately homes, that proudly stood the test of time and gave the blocks where they were located that unique character are being torn down. The homes being removed are all too often replaced with buildings that many people have said look more like boxes that came out of a mold or off a conveyer line than a home. Some call it progress. And then there is the demolition of long-time landmarks in the community that can bring some locals to the point of being a bit, well, emotional, because of the memories made there.

To many, one such South Boston Landmark is Mul's Diner on West Broadway. If there are any residents, whether life long, long time or new arrivals that have never enjoyed a hearty breakfast at Mul's, the number is certainly small. The large fluffy pancakes and French Toast are sumptuous, and the eggs are always cooked just how you like them. The coffee is some of the best around and comes in those quaint traditional mugs. And everything is served up quickly and by friendly wait staff who always make patrons feel welcome.

Mul's has been the go to meeting place for elected officials from all over, members of the clergy, business people or just family and friends who want that great tasting meal in

a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. But it seems that the old saying 'All good things come to an end eventually' applies to Mul's Diner as well, because it will be demolished in the

very near future. It may be replaced by a proposed 6-story development. The City of Boston's Zoning Board of Appeals approved the proposal in June of last year. A few days ago, the developer was said to have filed an application for demolition. So, it may not be too long now that the famous shiny chrome building known by generations of Bostonians as Mul's will be just a fond memory.





# COLLINS & BIELE ANNOUNCE \$160M IN STATE FUNDING FOR NURSING HOMES

*State support for nursing homes reaches \$320m for COVID-19 Response*



**T**his week, **State Senator Nick Collins** and **State Representative David Biele** announced additional state aid and support to nursing homes and residents during the COVID-19 health pandemic. In April, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allocated \$130 million to support residents in nursing facilities. These funds were

invested in across the board increases and facilities that created dedicated COVID-19 wings. In addition to funding, mobile testing was made available for residents and staff.

Recently, the Commonwealth released a second round of \$130 million for nursing homes that meet specific guidelines and accountability measures. In order to qualify

for this state aid, nursing homes are required to test all residents and staff. Facilities that previously tested are required to validate and provide results of testing. In addition to testing, facilities will be audited regularly against an infection control checklist based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Public Health. Performance measures will be publicly released and funds must be used for staffing, personal protective equipment (PPE), or infection control.

Locally, the Massachusetts National Guard has visited the Marian Manor several times for testing. In addition, personal protective equipment, such as gloves, masks, and sanitizer, has been delivered to the Manor. Additionally, the Manor has been connected to PPE supply pipelines to help

meet the need of the residents at the Manor. “This funding is critical to nursing homes and long term care facilities having the staffing and necessary resources to respond to disproportionate impacts felt by patients and front line workers across the Commonwealth,” said Senator Collins. “More still needs to be done so that our greatest generation receives the dignity and respect they deserve.”

“These investments and resources are crucial to supporting our long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes at the center of this public health pandemic,” said Rep. Biele. “In responding to the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we continue supporting senior residents and elderly housing facilities in order to protect our most vulnerable residents.” In addition to these support measures, the Department of Public Health has created a hotline (617-660-5399) to assist families with loved ones in nursing homes or answer questions. The hotline is open seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## Councilor Flynn Files Memorial Day Resolution



**C**ity Councilor Ed Flynn is filing a resolution at this week’s City Council meeting to commemorate and honor those who died while serving in the military. This resolution is filed in advance of Memorial Day, which will be on Monday, May 25th, and formally requests the City Council to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country, including our Gold Star Families.

Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day in the past, and started as a day for people to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers after the Civil War. Decoration Day continued to be observed on the local level, and in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, and the change went into effect in 1971. On Memorial Day, the country pays respects to the more than 1.1 million American military personnel who made the supreme sacrifice for their country while serving in uniform, as well as to Gold Star Families whose

family members died in uniform.

Boston itself has numerous events commemorating Memorial Day, but because of the pandemic this year, many of the events are suspended or are being conducted virtually. However, the City of Boston’s Veterans Services and veteran organizations are still safely and individually placing flags at our military cemeteries in honor of those that paid the supreme sacrifice for our country,

including our Gold Star families.

“On Memorial Day, we solemnly honor our service members who made the supreme sacrifice for our country, as well as honor our Gold Star Families,” said Councilor Flynn. “It is important that we recognize that their sacrifice, service, and their bravery shall never be forgotten.”

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn’s office at 617-635-3203 or [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov).





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# South Boston Allied War Veterans Council



Dear South Boston Allied War Veterans Council,

I write to congratulate you on your award of \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Fund. Your application was excellent, and we are thrilled to be able to assist the Kearsarge Anchor in its refinishing. Since the adoption of the Community Preservation Act in November 2016, \$67 million has been awarded to 131 projects spanning across every neighborhood in the City of Boston. These projects are vital to ensuring that Boston remains a City filled with rich

historical landmarks, open space, and parks, while we continue to build much needed affordable housing. You and your team should be proud of your well-deserved contribution to the future of Boston. Congratulations again.

If you have any questions, comments or if there are any other matters in which I can be helpful to you, please reach out to my office at 617-635-4205 or Michael.Flaherty@boston.gov.

Regards,  
Michael F. Flaherty  
Boston City Councilor At-Large

### Memorial Day & Covid continued from front page

the unofficial start of summer by causing traffic jams on the way to hitting the beaches, as is the tradition in Massachusetts?

Well, some don't think so. The announcement was made that Massachusetts residents will be allowed to go to the state's beaches beginning Memorial Day, but with restrictions. Under the state's reopening plan, at a minimum, all beach visitors older than 2 must wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others. This requirement applies whether the person is inside or outside.

However, Memorial Day parades have been canceled statewide, as a result of the coronavirus mandates to maintain social distancing. Traditionally on Memorial Day, cities and towns all over MA hold parades in honor of military personnel, who died on the field of battle. Flags fly at half-staff. Military planes streak by overhead. Folks gather in cemeteries to praise and pray for those who gave their lives for their country. Veterans hand out red handmade poppies to raise money for charity.

But this year, because of restrictions mandated by the coronavirus pandemic, public graveside gatherings and parades are canceled. Flags fly at half-staff not just on Memorial Day but every day, to remember those who have died of COVID-19. There will be no plane flyovers. The poppies are going virtual and socially distant. In addition, many of the aging veterans of long-ago wars, who are customarily the honored guests and chief mourners at their buddies' graves, will most assuredly stay home to protect themselves from contagion.

This weekend, given the gradual lifting of the self-isolation phenomenon and the need to get the economy back on track, could and should be our opportunity to honor both the memories of our Fallen Heroes and the

bravery of our First Responder and Front Line Heroes in a new and different way.

So how can we celebrate Memorial Day? There are ways to honor the fallen, and to help those who fought alongside them and survived, without gathering in large groups. So, do so in your own traditional and heartfelt way. But perhaps, it should be a weekend to take stock of ourselves, our friends, our neighbors, our leaders, and our communities, as we join together in a transformational war against an insidious and scary pandemic that is on the verge of altering the world order. It's not called a pandemic for effect; it's for real.

"Americans should commemorate the war dead and feel gratitude for the selfless service and sacrifice of these people, people of different beliefs and ideologies", said Lorren Pogson, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We found this announcement from a neighboring state. The American Legion Auxiliary, which coordinates poppy distributions, has encouraged veterans to stay safe this year. National President Nicole Clapp and American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford released a joint statement:

"We understand it's difficult this year for American Legion Family volunteers to distribute poppies as they normally would at storefronts and special events," the statement read. "It's important to know that the Legion and Auxiliary national organizations encourage distributions, but at the same time we also ask volunteers to heed local officials' directives on social distancing."

National Poppy Day is always the Friday before Memorial Day. The Legion suggested drive-by celebrations at American Legion posts on May 22, social-media sharing of American Legion videos and other safe alternatives. The Auxiliary National Headquarters also will present a virtual National Poppy Day event on May 22 at noon on Facebook. com/alaforveterans.

## Remembrance of Memorial Day

As you visit the cemetery on this Memorial Day please do not remove the coins you may see left upon the headstones, they have a special significance.

### The Meaning of Coins On A Headstone



**A penny, you stopped and paid your respects.**



**A nickle, you attended bootcamp with them.**



**A dime, you served in the armed forces with them.**



**A quarter, you were with the soldier when they were KIA.**



# COVID and Separation Anxiety in Pets

As parts of the country start to reopen, many people who have worked from home will slowly start heading back to the office. Although this may be a welcomed change for some, others like our pets, may need to adjust not having us around 24/7.

If you shared your home of- fice with your furry friend over the last couple of months, it's likely that your pet could expe- rience separation anxiety when they suddenly find themselves home alone.

**Trupanion**, the leader in medical insurance for pets, has a few tips to ease the "back to the office" transi- tion for you and your pet.

### Practice and Desensitize

When leaving and returning home, it's important to keep it a very neutral and low-key expe- rience for your dog. Petting them and giving them excessive amounts of attention before leav- ing or when you get home will only cause them to notice your absence that much more.

Desensitize your pet to cues

you are leaving - grab your keys, put on your shoes and coat at various times of the day without actually leaving. If your dog has any cues that you are about to leave, be sure to practice those to desensitize your dog to your behavior.

Start practicing by leaving the house for very short periods of time. Be sure to keep the whole experience very low-key. Leave for 30 seconds and then return. Increase that time to 1 minute, 5 minutes, 15 minutes, etc. Vary the times to confuse your pet and show him that regardless of how long you're gone, you will still return.

### Prepare your pet

Only give attention on your terms.

Exercise them before leaving to help reduce anxiety

### Preparing your house

Leave a TV or radio on to fill the void of a now quiet house.

They also may enjoy the distrac- tion of a favorite enrichment toy and, of course, snacks.

### Consider your options

If your pet is comfortable with



the crate, crate training may be a good place to start to keep your pet in a comfortable environment where they won't have access to chew up your possessions.

You might consider hiring a pet

sitter or taking your dog to daycare a few times per week. If you are still having troubles with separa- tion anxiety, we recommend con- tacting a dog trainer with expertise in this area.

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# HAPPY 99<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

## WWII Veteran Ottavio Cerullo Honored On His 99th Birthday

*NOTE. Because of the Covid-19 situation and the fact that we were publishing on social media and the website only, South Boston Today held this story, until we went back into print. We wanted to make sure that this story reached as many people as possible, because we consider it to be so important as we recognize Ottavio Cerullo. He is a true American hero celebrating his 99th birthday.*

### SBT Staff Report

It has been stated and repeated countless times over the generations and still rings true in 2020: “South Boston always honors its veterans”. And that was confirmed on April 26, 2020 in a big way when the community, in a massive motorcade, paid tribute to a true American hero - Ottavio Cerullo.

By now, just about everyone in town knows who Ottavio Cerullo is. He is a World War II Veteran,

who earned 2 Purple Hearts (medals for being injured in action). He is a resident at Compass On The Bay in South Boston and just celebrated his 99th birthday. And that was what the big motorcade was all about. Because of the Corona Virus and the ‘Shelter in Place’ quarantine, a regular birthday party wasn’t possible. But being creative is something else that South Bostonians are also known for.

With the guidance of Shari Sweeney, the Director of Program-

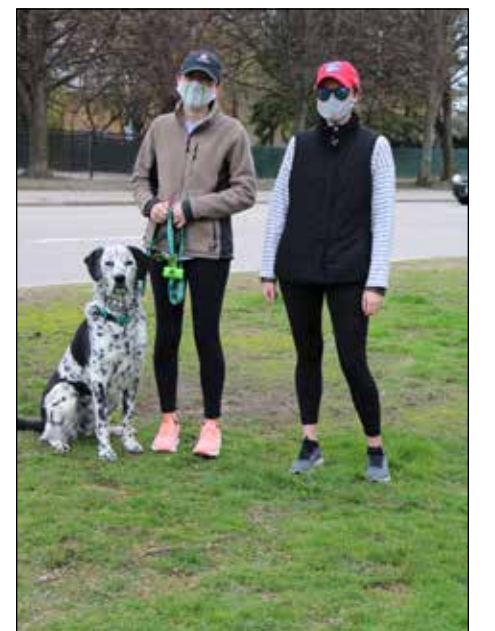
ming at ‘Compass’, and her great staff, what’s now called a ‘drive by birthday party’ was organized in cooperation with local South Boston Veterans. A request went out through local South Boston newspapers and social media sites for participants to come by Compass in cars, many displaying balloons, well wishing signs, and waving American Flags with horns blazing loudly. The call was answered in a huge way. Once again, Southie did what Southie does best.

The event was so popular and Ottavio is so deserving of the recognition he received. The story wasn’t just covered by Boston media outlets, it also ran on some national news channels giving the entire nation the opportunity to view it. The signs on the parading vehicles along with reading ‘Happy Birthday Ottavio’, also read ‘Thank you for your Service’ and God Bless you’. At times, the honking horns and the cheers were almost ear splitting, because the enthusiasm and the love

for Ottavio by his many fans and supporters is so heartfelt.

As Ottavio stood on the stairs of Compass by the Bay during the procession, he was joined by South Boston’s own John Allison of Veteran’s Affairs and Robert Santiago, the Commissioner of Veteran’s Affairs, presented Ottavio with citation from the City of Boston. He was also joined by his sister Yolanda Cerullo, who will be turning 98 years of age in August.

It was clear that Ottavio was flattered and perhaps a bit overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection by the large crowds passing by in moving vehicles. He was heard to ask several times – “Is all of this for me?” Yes Ottavio, all of it was for you. You are true a neighborhood hero and add so much to the character of a proud community. The appreciation for your service to your country is shared by all in South Boston. Your ‘drive by birthday party’ was a way to show you just how deep and sincere that appreciation is.









# South Boston Catholic Academy News

## A Teacher's Perspective on Virtual Learning

From Ms. Bourdon's who writes... In the K2C classroom, we discussed being flexible. Throughout this pandemic, the students have gone above and beyond to be flexible. We are no longer sitting in a classroom, but as a class, we are determined to continue our learning. A day in the life of a K2C student consists of small group instruction via zoom, live math lessons, pre-filmed lessons for the students to view and complete when they have the time, and lunchtime read aloud. My goal as a teacher is to keep the students connected while learning. We send each other videos

and pictures throughout the day, which I think creates positivity and encourages students to continue their learning. Just like the K2C students learning to be flexible, teachers are learning how to adapt and be flexible themselves.

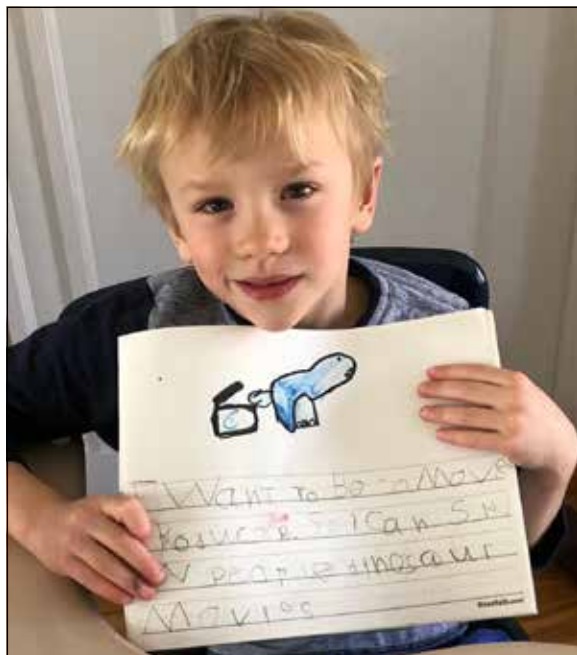
It is truly a whole new concept of teaching, but the South Boston Catholic Academy, Principal, Mrs. Civian; Vice Principal, Mrs. Brown and teachers are going above and beyond to make sure their students are continuing the curriculum and hitting their goals. We could not do this without the support of the parents. We had a strong partnership

with parents and our community before the pandemic, but it has certainly strengthened during this time. Parents and teachers are communicating daily to navigate the best way for the students to learn from home. Parents and teachers have quickly become a strong team; unwilling to give up and motivated to give the students the best education. Together we are SBCA strong.

From our Principal, Mrs. Civian... We hear wonderful stories of the work and dedication of our families. We are all learning so many new things as we continue to care for our children. Every day we get better

and better at this new way of teaching and learning. We have always seen your love and dedication to the spiritual, academic, and social areas of your children's lives and these days are no different. You are such wonderful witnesses of hope to the young souls that have been entrusted to us by our loving God.

We are so proud of our teachers! Our faculty are meeting regularly in virtual staff meetings to share and celebrate successes as well as identify and resolve challenges. As we learn and discover together, I see extraordinary advancements with our use of online resources, virtual chat opportunities with students and parents, and the quality of our Distance Learning program as we become increasingly efficient and effective with technology.



### PARKS PARCEL PRIORITY PLAN SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging park users and open space advocates to take part in the City of Boston's new Parcel Priority Plan (PPP) using an online survey. The survey results will be used in developing the open space acquisition Parcel Priority Plan, and the City of Boston encourages residents from every neighborhood to share their feedback.

Enhancing and enlarging Boston's network of resilient public open space is critical, and the Parcel Priority Plan will identify and evaluate lands in the city that should be acquired or protected as

open spaces. This will be used for the development of the update to the City of Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Questions that are a part of the survey include:

- Where would you like to see open space?
- What should the City of Boston focus on when acquiring or protecting open space?

Residents' responses will shape the future of Boston's park system.

Survey responses will be combined with data modeling and the City's priorities to create the Parcel Priority Plan. This is an essential first step in understanding where the Parks

and Recreation Department has opportunities to expand the open space network. Creating new open space and protecting existing open space will move forward as opportunities and funding are available.

The online survey is available in six languages in addition to English. To participate, please visit [boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan](http://boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan).

Interpretation and translation services are available at no cost. To access these services or learn more about the project, please contact Maggie Owens at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617) 961-3025 or email [maggie.owens@boston.gov](mailto:maggie.owens@boston.gov).





**A**s the four major professional sports leagues try to figure out a viable strategy to play games again, Major League Baseball has provided the most aggressive rule changes so far, in its attempt to prevent the spread of Coronavirus if and when the league resumes play this season.

MLB's 67-page safety proposal to the Players Association leaked to the media this week, and in it saw several outrageous rules that would change many aspects of the game of baseball.

Outside of these rule changes — which I'll react to in a moment — MLB and MLBPA are also negotiating the non-safety aspects of a return with a shortened season. The biggest issue there, of course, is money. Owners have proposed a 50-50 split with the players, and based on the initial reaction from the players, that's something they just won't agree to.

But let's say the two sides can eventually come to some sort of financial agreement. The only issue then would be that of the players' safety during this pandemic. To which, MLB's 67-page safety proposal attempts to manage those safety concerns. However, one

could accurately describe the proposal as outrageous.

How outrageous, you ask? Well, let's take a look:

**COVID testing**

-The league is prepared to provide 10,000 COVID-19 tests per week for players, team personnel, other essential employees, and their family members. This would include each person being tested multiple times per week, while players would also have multiple daily temperature screenings. Those who test positive will be forced into quarantine, and will not be able to return until they test negative twice. The big question here though is: Will there be enough testing available?

**Players in the stands**

-According to reports of the leaked safety proposal, each team will be allowed to have 50 players on the roster. Those players and team personnel who are not participating in games will sit in the stands of the empty stadiums and will be separated by six feet or more.

**Non-contact celebrations**

-Walk-off home runs would definitely look pretty weird under these proposed rules, which will not allow high fives, fist bumps, or hugs. I'm honestly not sure how the league will

be able to enforce this non-contact rule. Will they fine Rafael Devers if he high fives J.D. Martinez after a two-run home run to give the Red Sox a lead in a big game? Seems impossible to eliminate the high five or the fist bump.

**No spitting**

-Another one that seems impossible to eliminate. Just how, exactly, are you going to tell players they can't spit on the field during games? It might sound crazy to some, but spitting is part of the game. The only sport in which you don't see players spitting is the NBA. Telling ballplayers they can't spit is like telling them they can't blink. I don't see how this rule will work.

**Keep the baseballs clean**

-After a ball is touched by multiple players, it will be thrown away. This one is doable, as every MLB game uses a countless number of balls. Though, under this new rule, throwing the ball around the infield — let's say, after a strikeout with nobody on base — will be discouraged.

**Other safety measures**

-Players will be required to wear masks everywhere they go, except when they're on the field of play or while taking part in training activities.

-On the road, players will not be allowed to leave their hotel.

-Also, on the road, players will not be allowed to take taxis or use any ride-sharing apps like Uber or Lyft.

-Players will be advised not to shower at the stadiums after games.

-Players who are considered to be "high-risk individuals" that are vulnerable to Coronavirus are allowed to opt-out of playing.

Overall, I expect the Players Association to do some tweaking to these proposed safety guidelines. In my opinion, at least, this proposal seems a little over the top. I can understand the need for testing, but once the games begin, you can't control in-game physical contact or how many times a player spits. And good luck keeping players in their hotels while they're on the road, especially when they're in a city that is no longer on Coronavirus lockdown.

So, after reading this, are you at all convinced that we'll see baseball in 2020? Because I'm not.

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# SPORTS TODAY

## BELMONT STAKES PUSHED BACK TO JUNE 20

SBT Staff

The Belmont Stakes is usually the third leg of the Triple Crown. But because of the Coronavirus, this year it will be the first leg for the first time.

Originally scheduled for June 6 at Belmont Park in New York, this year's Belmont Stakes will instead take place on June 20 with no fans in attendance, the New York Racing Association announced on Tuesday.

The race will also be shortened from 1 1/2 miles down to 1 1/8 miles.

"The Belmont Stakes is a New York institution that will provide world-class entertainment for sports fans during these challenging times," said New York Racing Association president Dave O'Rourke in a statement. "While this will certainly be a unique running of this historic race, we are grateful to be able to hold the Belmont Stakes in 2020."

"Fans across the country can look forward to a day of exceptional thoroughbred racing at a time when entertainment and sports are so important to providing a sense of normalcy."

The Kentucky Derby is normally the first leg of horse racing's Triple Crown, but that was pushed back from May 2 to Sept. 5. The Preakness Stakes is usually the second leg, but that was moved from May 16 to Oct. 3.

## Tweet of the Week



## 'THE LAST DANCE' BECOMES ESPN'S MOST WATCHED DOCUMENTARY EVER

SBT Staff

ESPN's 10-part documentary on Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls' six championships in the 90's wrapped up last Sunday night. "The Last Dance" will go down as the most popular documentary that ESPN has ever produced.

The series averaged 5.65 million same-day viewers for all 10 episodes, making it ESPN's most watched documentary in the history of the network.

All 10 episodes are now available on-demand through ESPN's on-demand services.

The long-awaited documentary was originally scheduled to air in June, with the first ever trailer having been released back in December of 2018. But because Coronavirus shut down the entire sports world in March, ESPN decided to bump up the release date.

While some could argue the historic ratings got some help from the Coronavirus shutdowns, there's no denying the series' fantastic portrayal of Jordan's career and the pieces around him that led to arguably the greatest dynasty of all time. Coronavirus or not, "The Last Dance" is one of the best documentaries ever made.

## LEBRON ALMOST PLAYED FOOTBALL IN 2011

SBT Staff

One of the more intriguing parts of ESPN's Michael Jordan documentary "The Last Dance" was when Jordan retired from basketball in 1993 and went on to play baseball for the Chicago White Sox organization in 1994.

The situation led some to wonder what current professional athletes would be able to make the switch to another pro sport. To most, LeBron James is one of the first athletes that comes to mind.

Well, this week, James said on the "Uninterrupted" network that he nearly made the jump from basketball to the NFL in 2011 during the NBA lockout.

During the interview, James' business partner Maverick Carter revealed that Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones offered James a contract to play for the Cowboys that year.

"I had no idea how long the lockout was going to be,



and myself and my trainer, we really started to actually train to be a football player when it came to October and November," said James in the interview. "We started to clock our times with the 40's, we started to add a little bit more in our bench presses and things of that nature. We started to add more sledding to our agenda with our workouts."

James never signed with the Cowboys, and the NBA season started that December. James stayed with the Miami Heat and won his first NBA championship that season. But he still has the unsigned Cowboys contract framed on his wall.

## WHAT TO WATCH

### GOLF SUNDAY, MAY 24

THE MATCH: Champions for Charity  
Woods/Manning (-205) vs  
Mickelson/Brady (+165)  
2 P.M. TNT/TBS

### NASCAR SUNDAY, MAY 24

Coca-Cola 600  
6 P.M. FOX

### WWE FRIDAY, MAY 22

Friday Night SmackDown  
8 P.M. FOX



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