

## Thoughts on the Boston Marathon Terrorism

Posted: 04/22/2013 5:43 pm

As someone born and raised in Boston, I share the heartbreak of Bostonians and Bostonians-at-heart all over the world. Boston prides itself on its history, its civility, and its community spirit. The events of the past week violate so many of the values and traditions that Bostonians hold dear. Yet, those very values will give Boston the fortitude and heart to move forward.

As a youngster, growing up in Newton, a Boston suburb, the Boston Marathon was a much-awaited springtime celebration. My older sister and I used to hand out paper cups of orange juice to exhausted, but determined, marathon runners who reached the top of "heartbreak hill," close to our home. We knew these flagging runners would somehow find a "second wind," run the remaining miles, and cross the finish line. And they did - every single year!

Similarly, the city's leaders have risen to the challenges this senseless, chaotic act of terrorism presents. First responders and local citizens, too, have demonstrated great heart and great fortitude, often at immense personal risk. The hideous face of hatred these events revealed has provoked worldwide revulsion.

Yet, there is more than death and destruction left by these mindless acts of terrorism. There is an important lesson smoldering within the ashes still burning on the streets of Boston: We must all move beyond sectarian hatreds of every kind to create global, enduring, and sustainable peace. Only when we understand our common human identity shall we be able to share our lives and the world that is ours to destroy or develop. That choice is ours.

My condolences to the innocent victims, their devastated families, and their shaken friends. My condolences, also, to the parents and relatives of these misguided young terrorists. None of us would want to bear the heavy burden of their deeds.

Today, Boston, as a city, is climbing another type of "heartbreak hill." I firmly believe that Bostonians and Bostonians-at-heart everywhere will reach within themselves to find that "second wind" and cross the finish line. Today, we all are Bostonians.