

BOSTON STRONG SPIRIT



“NOTHING CAN DEFEAT THE HEART OF THIS CITY”

THE PEOPLE of Boston have shown great courage, resilience, and community spirit this week as the police hunted the suspected perpetrators of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Just five days ago, at 2:50 p.m., two bombs exploded on Boylston Street as crowds of spectators cheered runners approaching the finish line of the popular marathon route.

The blasts killed three people and injured at least 264. The three victims have been named as Martin Richard, an eight-year-old from Dorchester; Krystle Campbell, a 29-year-old from Arlington; and Lingzi Lu, a 23-year-old student.

The city has been in a state of high alert since the manhunt for the bombers began five days ago. The main suspects, Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, have since claimed a fourth victim: MIT police officer Sean Collier, 27, who was shot dead as the brothers tried

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to steal his gun.

Last night, Dzhokhar, 19, was discovered by a Watertown resident and taken into custody. Tamerlan, 26, was fatally shot during a gunfight with police. The brothers, both from Cambridge, Massachusetts, are legal immigrants to the United States and of Chechen descent. According to the FBI, the suspects are “not connected to any known terrorist groups.”

Despite the fear and violence of recent days, the reaction to the Marathon bombing has shown Boston at its best. From the bravery of the emergency services who rushed to the aid of the victims, to the many acts of kindness shown to strangers by ordinary Bostonians, the city has emerged from the crisis stronger and more united.

This resilience has been captured in the popular slogan “Boston Strong.” Its spirit was

invoked in a moving speech delivered yesterday by Mayor Tom Menino.

“Nothing can defeat the heart of this city,” said the Mayor. “Nothing will take us down, because we take care of one another.”

THE TRAGEDY of the Boston Marathon bombing inspired many extraordinary acts of charity and kindness from the people of Massachusetts. These include the creation of Martin’s Park near Boston Children’s Museum, opened in 2019 in honor of eight-year-old victim Martin Richard. During “One Boston Day,” held on April 15 each year, individuals and groups across the state perform “random acts of kindness and goodwill” to celebrate the spirit of community shown by ordinary people after the bombing.