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KEVIN CULLEN Airman's homegoing

Willis Saunders never got to see the movie. The movie is called "Red Tails" and it's about the Tuskegee Army, the all-black aviation combat unit that broke the color barrier in the skies and helped beat the Nazis, to

ers was a Tuskegee Airman, but ne the movie hit the theaters a weeks ago he was too sick to see k after the film premiered nation- ing in \$19 million and second he box office on its opening , he was dead. ers was a legendary Boston cop. stepped down in 1992 as a depu- tentendent, they printed up 500 r his retirement dinner. And 00 people showed up. It seemed as many crowded into Charles ME Church in Roxbury yesterday neral, his homegoing, as they say eat African-American churches. ore than a homegoing; it was a tory lesson in Black History

ers was a Roxbury guy, and after Gregory Groover asked anyone ury roots to stand up, most of egation rose. Saunders left this e entered it: surrounded by folks. xt-door neighbor, the Rev. ray, has a cousin, Leo Gray, who bat missions as a Tuskegee Air- Gray lives in Florida and when- Gray was outside, talking to him phone, Saunders would amble orch. t Leo?" he'd say. "Let me talk to

od reverend had to make like ng to get that phone back. a Tuskegee Airman dies, he n Lonely Eagle. And when he surrounded by his old com- ir bright red ties a reminder of ht red tails on the planes that nis country and changed histo-

ok Binns was wearing one of ies, standing at the pulpit, ing Saunders, when he asked men in red ties to stand. men who loved their country it loved them back stood, and se that bounced off the walls of urch and washed over them was t you had to believe that yling in a casket at the foot of eard it, too. , Saunders was night com- eeping watch as the city slept. ke-charge, humble guy who done and didn't spend much ing. But he worried about

he and his comrades went s to tell their story. It is why he d Tails" made. He knew a film would reach more people ok. He believed that "Saving n" informed millions about ss of a generation that rmandy; he hoped "Red Tails" e same for a dying generation American patriots. wheeled Saunders out of lie Shellman, head of the irmen in New England, stood

Still showing true colors

Despite super letdown, Patriots faithful welcome their heroes Fans receive tips for tackling grief

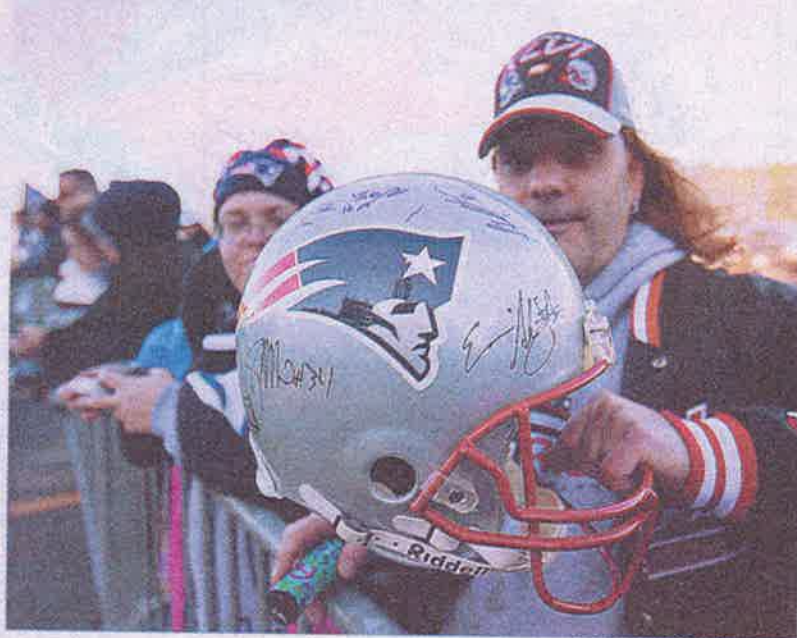
By Deborah Kotz
GLOBE STAFF

Tom Brady and his teammates are not the only ones grieving after Sunday's Super Bowl loss. The millions of fans in Patriots Nation are, too.

"People can have such a strong identification with their sports team that they actually go through a grieving process when the team loses," said Jesse Steinfeldt, a sports psychologist at Indiana University in Bloomington. "I'm originally from Green Bay, and it shook me for several days when the Giants beat Green Bay" in a divisional playoff game.

In the two weeks after Super Bowls, the rate of heart attacks has

GRIEF, Page B4



YOON S. BYUN/GLOBE STAFF

Gabriel Pelletier of Lunenburg was hoping to snare another autograph for his Patriots helmet outside Gillette Stadium yesterday.

By Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF

FOXBOROUGH— While many in Patriot Nation were still reeling yesterday from Sunday night's crushing 21-17 loss to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLVI, a crowd of more than 200 fans who welcomed the team home to Gillette Stadium found plenty to cheer about.

Vicki Smith, 44, of North Attleborough and her son, Robert Smith-Englehart, 17, said they arrived at the stadium parking lot at about 3 a.m. yesterday to show their support.

"We didn't know what time they'd get here," said Smith, who wore a Tom Brady jersey and held a sign bearing several messages, including, "Welcome Home New England Patriots — Still #1."

"Win or lose, we're diehard Patriots fans," she said.

Smith-Englehart, who wore the

PATRIOTS FANS, Page B4

CARE CENTER DEDICATED



PHOTOS BY BILL BRETT FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

The Whittier Street Health Center dedicated a new \$35 million building in Roxbury yesterday. Frederica Williams (not shown), president of the health center, said that the new facility could provide care for 222,000 patients annually. Williams said it treated 68,000 patients a year at its old facility. Above, Dumas Lafontant (center) and other health center employees applauded at the dedication.



Health firms boost Patrick

Donate \$52,250 to governor's federal PAC

By Noah Bierman
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Deval Patrick's federal political action committee collected at least \$52,250 from health care interests from July through December, just as Beacon Hill was gearing up for a major fight over how to overhaul payments in the multibillion-dollar industry.

The total was collected from just 18 donors and committees and makes up a significant portion of the PAC's overall fund-raising tally for the latest sixth-month reporting period, which totaled \$301,561.

Many of the individuals and companies who contributed have a lot at stake in the current debate, including executives affiliated with Partners Healthcare, the state's largest hospital network, and Shields Health Care. The governor is hoping to change the way Massachusetts patients and insurers pay for medical care, from the current fee-for-service plan to a global-payment system, in which providers would have a fixed budget to care for each patient.

Health care is the state's largest industry, and any shift in its economic underpinnings would have broad impacts.

The donors gave an average of \$2,750 each, well above the \$500 limit for state political campaigns. The federal PAC is allowed to accept