General Israel Putnam Branch #4

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



2026 Annual Report - April 12, 2025 to April 25, 2026



During the CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the Lexington Alarm events held in Woodstock on **Saturday April 26, 2025**, members of the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 presented the branch's 2025 SAR flag certificate to

the Woodstock Trading Post. Note the America 250 sign above the door. Taking part in the presentation were branch members Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon Sr., David Jones, Michael Brothers, and Marcus Larkin. This 250th anniversary event also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the branch's living history/color guard detachment, the 11th Connecticut Regiment, now starting its 32nd year.

11 branch members volunteered at the SAR 135th Congress at Mohegan Sun in July hosted by CTSSAR.

On **Sunday October 12, 2025**, during the CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull 315th Birthday event and Gen. George Washington Liberty Tree dedication at the War Office in Lebanon, Branch President Mark Sheldon Sr. inducted five new branch members and presented them their SAR member rosettes:

- Brian Sheldon
- Mark Sheldon III
- Mark Sheldon Jr.
- Kevin Haggerty
- Alexander Haggerty

On **Saturday October 18, 2025**, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR held its fall meeting/luncheon at the Traveler Restaurant in Union, Connecticut. 9 branch members attended: Michael Brothers, George Crede, James Dumaine-Savage, Todd Gerlander, David Jones, Michael Juhase, Robert Paakkonen, Gary Pitcock, and Mark Sheldon Sr.



- Branch President Mark Sheldon Sr. inducted two new branch members and presented them their SAR member rosettes:
    - Robert Paakkonen
    - James Dumaine-Savage

- The branch donated $250.00 to the Cornerstone Food Shelter for the Holidays. An annual branch tradition going back to the branch's rechartering in 1992.

- The branch 2026 recipient of the SAR Flag Certificate will be Christopher Paradiso, of Paradiso Insurance in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. The presentation will take place this year. The recipient was proposed by branch member Robert Paakkonen.

On **February 12, 2026**, Branch Treasurer Michael Juhase filed the branch's 2025 form 990-N with IRS.



On **March 14, 2026**, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR held its annual meeting and luncheon at the Traveler Restaurant in Union, Connecticut. 13 members attended + 1 proxy: Wayne Bickley, Michael Brothers, George Crede, James Dumaine-Savage, Peter Faulkner, Todd Gerlander, David Jones, Michael Juhase (by proxy), Marcus Larkin, Bruce Lyon, Robert Paakkonen, David Packard, Gary Pitcock, Mark Sheldon Sr.

The branch's current treasury balance is: $1267.74

The branch meets twice a year, holding an annual meeting/luncheon in the spring and a meeting/luncheon in the fall.

Annual branch dues are $10.00

Current branch membership: 46

Branch officers elected for 2026-2027:

President: Michael Brothers
Vice President: David Jones
Secretary: Bruce Lyon
Treasurer: Michael Juhase
Chaplain & Historian: Todd Gerlander

Todd Gerlander will continue as Captain (1995-2027) of the branch's living history/color guard detachment: the 11th Regiment of Connecticut Militia. The 11th Regiment was General Israel Putnam's hometown militia regiment where he served as its Lieutenant-Colonel prior to the American Revolution. It was composed of local militia companies from the towns of Woodstock, Pomfret and Killingly, Connecticut.

On behalf of the branch, Compatriot Bruce Lyon made a donation to CTSSAR to fund the CTSSAR Colonel Thomas Knowlton Liberty Tree 250 dedication which included the hybrid "Jefferson" elm tree and granite Liberty Tree marker to be held on Saturday June 27, 2026, with Scouting America, Connecticut Rivers Council, at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, Connecticut. We will also take part in the Colonel Thomas Knowlton Highway (A portion of Route 44 in Ashford) dedication ceremonies also happening that day at the Scout Reservation. Doing something for Colonel Thomas Knowlton at this Scout Reservation (which is on land originally owned by Colonel Thomas Knowlton) has been discussed in this branch for decades dating back to 1997 when we first started holding annual ceremonies (1997-2003) for him at Snow Cemetery in Ashford (his wife and son Frederick (who also served in "Knowlton's Rangers" during the Revolution) are buried there. Colonel Thomas Knowlton, America's first military intelligence officer, was killed leading his Rangers during the Battle of Harlem Heights on September 16, 1776, and he was buried with military honors in an unmarked grave in the vicinity of 143rd Street and St. Nicholas Ave.), and it is good to see that it is finally happening as a CTSSAR 250th anniversary event.
* Thomas Knowlton was the officer in command of the 200 Connecticut men stationed at the rail fence during the Battle of Bunker Hill, and later was Captain Nathan Hale's commanding officer. General George Washington upon hearing the news of his death stated, "The gallant and brave Col. Knowlton, who would have been an honor to any country, having fallen yesterday while gloriously fighting."

Past President Mark Sheldon Sr. (2020-2026) was presented a past branch president pin and certificate.
The branch also presented him with the Bronze Meritorious Service Medal. Mark served six terms as branch president, set up all the branch meetings at the Traveler Restaurant in Union, and presented all but one of the branch's SAR flag certificates during his term by himself.

Past President Peter Faulkner (2017-2020) was also presented his past branch president pin and certificate.


LIBERTY TREE
Recognizing the 250th Anniversary
American Independence 1776 - 2026
Connecticut Society SAR
& Scouting America
Connecticut
Rivers Council
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250th
Anniversary
1776 - 2026
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Dedicated June 27, 2026
Colonel Thomas Knowlton