Connecticut Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr Branch #10

Report to the CTSSAR Board of Managers meeting 18 February 2017

The Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10 (Wolcott branch) is reporting from 1 September 2016 to this BOM meeting which is to be held on 18 February 2017.

Wolcott Branch participated in the 9/11 ceremony held in Canaan, Ct. Compatriot Ken Buckbee made a presentation of the American Flag Recognition Certificate to the Knights of Columbus, Berkshire Council 1520 for their patriotism in displaying a special flag each year to remember 9/11 victims and those who lost their lives in the War on Terror. The Knights of Columbus American Flag is 20' x 40' and is flown from a Canaan Volunteer Fire Department fire truck ladder due to its size.

CTSSAR Secretary Paul Selnau distributed booklets which contained current bylaws and also the most recent membership list for SAR statewide.

Paul Selnau and Derek Brockhoff represented the Wolcott Branch at the Massing of the Colors held in Lebanon, Ct. on 2 October 2016.

The SAR participation in Old Woodbury Days was cancelled due to rain

The Wolcott Branch was invited to and did attend The Wall That Heals during its time in New Milford from 26 October to 29 October. The General Wolcott's Sixth Militia Brigade fired musket salutes and also carried the American flag during the opening ceremonies on 29 October 2016. The Wall That Heals was sponsored by the Roger Sherman Chapter of the DAR under the leadership of Jenny Mae Rehnberg, Chairperson for the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Partner program. The Color Guard received a Certificate of Appreciation from DAR National Office. This certificate was presented to Paul Selnau, Captain of the Color Guard.

The Wolcott Branch is planning a grave marking for Spring 2017. The Patriot proposed to be honored is Nathaniel Woodruff of Litchfield.

The Wolcott Branch was presented with a Partners in Patriotism certificate

The Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr Branch joined with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the DAR to host a "Meet the SAR" event on 8 October 2016 from 11:00 to 1:00. The location for the event was the Oliver Wolcott library in Litchfield. Two new members were signed up for each of the organizations – (a total of four). Registrar John Lilley has submitted the applicants paperwork and both member have been approved by the National SAR in January 2017.

The Wolcott Branch participated in the Veteran's Day ceremony held in Coe Park, Torrington. Our Color Guard represented the SAR during this event under the command of Ken Buckbee. Riflemen were: Derek Brockhoff, Martin Spring, and Jon King.

Compatriot John Lilley was presented with the DAR Community Service Award on 12 November 2016. The award ceremony was held at the St. Michael's parish hall in Litchfield.

The Wolcott Branch held its annual Christmas Social on 01 December 2016. The event was held at Marino's Restaurant in Torrington. Branch member Tom Francis and his wife Barbara (DAR) won the prize for the greatest distance driven – they live in New Hampshire. Entertainment for the night was provided by Patrick and Kate who sang Christmas music.

The Board of Managers meeting, held at Lucky Lou's in Wethersfield, on 5 November 2016 was attended by five Wolcott members. Jon King, Eric King, Ian King, Paul Selnau, and Peter Stothart (VP).

New member Carl Lewis Bierce was inducted at the regular scheduled meeting on 7 November 2016. Carl and his wife Donna attended the full meeting held at the Montfort House in Litchfield

Registrar John Lilley reported that our Branch membership stands at 115 as of November 2016. There are two additional members in the pipeline of membership.

The General Wolcott's Sixth Militia Brigade (Color Guard) joined with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the DAR in the ceremony for "Wreathes Across America". This nationwide ceremony is conducted simultaneously at 12:00 noon on 17 December 2016 and was held at the All Wars Memorial, in Bantam, Ct, This event received good press coverage from the Waterbury Republican and internet news on www.litchfield.bz . Attendees were: Paul Selnau, Derek Brockhoff, and Jonathan King.

John R. Harrison, President
Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10

Memorial observance held as planned despite the snow

BY JOHN MCKENNA
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

LITCHFIELD — A heavy snowfall wasn't enough to stop the patriotic observance known as Wreaths Across America on Saturday.

The local version of the national event was held as scheduled at the All Wars Memorial in Bantam despite about 8 inches of snow on the ground.

Snow stopped falling about an hour before the noon start of the observance, leaving enough time for the All Wars Memorial to be shoveled off.

"They don't cancel Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery because the weather is bad, and we don't cancel here in Bantam," Susan Harrison of the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution said before the observance.

The chapter organized the tribute that saw seven local veterans place wreaths in front of the All Wars Memorial. The wreaths honored the six branches of the military and those who serve or have served in them.

A seventh wreath was placed to recognize the 93,129 servicemen whose last-known status was either prisoner of war or missing in action.

"Today we show a united front of national unity across the United States of America as we remember the fallen, honor those who have served and teach our children the value of freedom," Harrison said.

The tribute was one of more than 1,100 held across the country on Saturday. More than 1 million wreaths were expected to be placed.

Wreaths also represent a commitment to those who have died in service to the country and military families who sacrifice so much, Harrison said.

"I was a military wife, so I know how important today is," said Harrison, whose husband, John R. Harrison, was an Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War.

American Legion Post 44 of Bantam, the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution, AMVETS Post 24 of Torrington, and the Marine Corps League of Canaan all had a hand in the observance.

Harrison paid special tribute to David St. John of Bantam for coming out in the snow to set up the sound system, and bugler Mike Magnifico of Post 44 for his rendition of taps to conclude the ceremony.

Contact John McKenna at jmckenna33@optonline.net.

"THEY DON'T CANCEL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY BECAUSE THE WEATHER IS BAD, AND WE DON'T CANCEL HERE IN BANTAM." — SUSAN HARRISON



JOHN MCKENNA REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

A color guard from the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution delivers a musket salute during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the All Wars Memorial in Bantam on Saturday.