

General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR Annual Meeting/Luncheon
April 6, 2024, Traveler Restaurant, Union, Connecticut

General Israel Putnam Branch #4
The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Annual Report, April 2023 – April 2024

During the past year branch members (Wayne Bickley, George Crede, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, Howard Greene, Jerry Hazeldine, Jay Hershey, Mark Sheldon, Donald Spencer) of the branch color guard detachment (11th Connecticut Regiment) participated with the Connecticut Line, Living History/Color Guard Unit of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at various events. The close of the 2024 campaign will mark 30 years of service for the branch color guard and 30 years that Compatriot Todd Gerlander has served as the branch color guard commander/detachment captain. Plans to commemorate the branch color guard's 30th anniversary will be held in April 2025 in conjunction with the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Lexington Alarm with an SAR Patriot grave marking ceremony at South Cemetery in Pomfret, Connecticut.

On April 22, 2023, four branch members (Michael Brothers, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, Gary Pitcock) attended the CTSSAR annual meeting/luncheon at J. Timothy's Tavern in Plainville, Connecticut. Compatriot Todd Gerlander attended in color guard uniform.

On September 16, 2023, branch member Gary Pitcock attended the CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting at the Plainville Public Library in Plainville, Connecticut.

On November 4, 2023, the branch's Fall meeting began with a patriot grave marking ceremony for the Rev. John Rathbun. A Baptist minister for 75 years starting in Stonington prior to the Revolution. During the Revolution he was a member of the Stonington Committee on Correspondence and Inspection and a signer of the memorial to the Connecticut Assembly praying for cannon to protect the town of Stonington against the British attack on Long Point in 1775. Branch member Wayne Bickley is a descendant. Seven branch members attended the ceremony: Wayne Bickley, Michael Brothers, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, Bruce Lyon, Mark Sheldon, Keith Wilson. Wayne Bickley, Dan Dudley, and Todd Gerlander were in uniform and served as color guard during the ceremony.

On November 4, 2023, the branch held its Fall meeting/luncheon at the Traveler Restaurant in Union, Connecticut. Nine branch members attended: Wayne Bickley, Michael Brothers, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, Michael Juhase, Bruce Lyon, Gary Pitcock, Mark Sheldon, Keith Wilson. New member Compatriot Keith Wilson was sworn in and presented an SAR rosette.
The branch's annual 2023 holiday donation to the Cornerstone Food Shelter in Rockville, Connecticut, was for $250.00. An annual branch tradition since the branch's rechartering.

On November 18, 2023, four branch members (Michael Brothers, George Crede, Todd Gerlander, Gary Pitcock) attended the CTSSAR November State meeting/luncheon at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, Connecticut.

On December 8, 2023, the branch sold two Revolutionary War wedge tents/poles/stakes to a member of the Tenth Regiment of Foot for $400.00. These were purchased by the branch color guard back in 2003, it was felt they were no longer needed, since most members who camp own their own tents.

On December 16, 2023, four branch members (Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon, Donald Spencer) of the branch color guard detachment (11th Connecticut Regiment) participated in the National Wreaths Across America event in Lebanon, Connecticut, at the Town Hall and Trumbull Cemetery.

On December 20, 2023, branch President Mark Sheldon presented an SAR Flag Certificate to Ray Bergeron of Eastford Building in Eastford, Connecticut.

On December 23, 2023, branch President Mark Sheldon presented a second SAR Flag Certificate in memory of George Senerchia in Northford, Connecticut.

On February 10, 2024, two branch members (Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon) attended the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee meeting at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut. Three branch members serve on the committee: Todd Gerlander, Gary Pitcock, Mark Sheldon.

On February 24, 2024, two branch members (Todd Gerlander, Gary Pitcock) attended the CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting at the Plainville Public Library in Plainville, Connecticut.

On February 28, 2024, branch treasurer Michael Juhase filed the branch's form 990-N with IRS. This form has been filed annually by the branch treasurer.

On March 9, 2024, five branch members (Dan Dudley, George Crede, Todd Gerlander, Jerry Hazeldine, Jay Hershey) of the branch color guard detachment (11th Connecticut Regiment) attended the annual meeting/luncheon of the Connecticut Line, Living History/Color Guard Unit of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville, Connecticut. Branch members Dan Dudley was elected as Major, and Todd Gerlander was appointed Provost Marshall.

On March 23, 2024, branch member Todd Gerlander served as a CTSSAR delegate at the Spring meeting/luncheon of the New England District NSSAR at the Union Street Tavern in Windsor, Connecticut, to vote for CTSSAR Compatriot Ethan Stewart for New England District NSSAR Vice President General, as voted by the CTSSAR Board of Managers on February 24, 2024.

On April 6, 2024, the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR held its annual meeting/luncheon at the Traveler Restaurant in Union, Connecticut. Nine branch members attended: Wayne Bickley, Michael Brothers, George Crede, Todd Gerlander, Michael Juhase, Bruce Lyon, Mark Sheldon, Donald Spencer, Keith Wilson. The following branch officers were elected for 2024-2025:

President: Mark W. Sheldon (2020-2025)
1st Vice-President: Michael F. Brothers (2024-2025)
2nd Vice-President: Dan E. Dudley (2022-2025)
Secretary: Bruce C. Lyon (2014-2025)
Treasurer: Michael A. Juhase (2020-2025)
Chaplain: Todd L. Gerlander (2022-2025)
Historian: Todd L. Gerlander (2024-2025)

2024-2025 will be Compatriot Mark Sheldon's fifth term as branch president.

Branch bylaw revisions started in 2023, were approved and amended April 6, 2024.

The branch voted to pledge $250 to the CTSSAR Connecticut Sons of Liberty Fundraiser/135th Congress.

The branch will present Johnson Auto Body in Tolland an SAR Flag Certificate in 2024.

The branch will present Compatriot Gary Pitcock the SAR 25-year service pin and certificate. (2024).

The branch will present Compatriot Frank Castro the SAR 25-year service pin and certificate. (2020).

On April 13, 2024, two branch members (Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon) will attend the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee meeting at the War Office in Lebanon,

Connecticut. Three branch members serve on the committee: Todd Gerlander, Gary Pitcock, Mark Sheldon.

As of this report, 8 branch members (Wayne Bickley, Dan Dudley, Todd Gerlander, William Grunske, Jay Hershey, Bruce Lyon, Gary Pitcock, Richard Wright) have made a Connecticut Sons of Liberty pledge to help fund the NSSAR 135th annual Congress at Mohegan Sun in July 2025.

On April 27, 2024, at the CTSSAR annual State meeting/luncheon at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, Connecticut, the branch will present the SAR Martha Washington Medal to Mary Brown, a member of the CTDAR, recognizing 26 years of support to the branch and CTSSAR.

On May 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM, The Connecticut Line CTSSAR will hold a 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution SAR grave marking ceremony for African American Patriot Prince Crosley at Duck River Cemetery in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Branch member Keith Wilson is a descendant.

Patriotically,

Mark Sheldon, Branch President (2020-2025)



General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR Patriot grave marking ceremony for
Rev. John Rathbun, November 4, 2023, Westford Village Cemetery, Westford, Connecticut



General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR Fall Meeting/Luncheon
November 4, 2023, Traveler Restaurant, Union, Connecticut



Wreaths Across America 2023, Lebanon, Connecticut





SAR Flag Certificate Presentations 2023

Annual Branch Reporting Request from David Perkins, CTSSAR State Secretary,

1) Branch Officers 2024-2025: Contact info on CTSSAR branch roster is correct.

President: Mark W. Sheldon (2020-2025)
1st Vice-President: Michael F. Brothers (2024-2025)
2nd Vice-President: Dan E. Dudley (2022-2025)
Secretary: Bruce C. Lyon (2014-2025)
Treasurer: Michael A. Juhase (2020-2025)
Chaplain: Todd L. Gerlander (2022-2025)
Historian: Todd L. Gerlander (2024-2025)

Branch 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2024. (sent separately)
Branch 2023 Form 990-N. (sent separately)
Branch Balance as of April 3, 2024: $1,361.68
Currently single signer. Branch will add President Mark Sheldon as second signer.
Branch Bylaws, Amended April 6, 2024. (sent separately)
Branch (Active Member) Medals and Awards List 1992-2024. (sent separately)
Branch Fall Meeting, _____, 2024. Traveler Restaurant, Union, CT.

Flags: (4) U.S. flags (4) SAR flags (8) poles (4) stands

U.S. flag and (Putnam Branch) SAR flag, 2 adjustable poles 6'+ and 2 stands. (Branch)
U.S. flag and (double sided) SAR flag, 2 wooden poles 7' or 8' and 2 stands. (TG)
U.S. flag and (New England Contingent) SAR flag, 2 wooden poles 7' or 8' and no stands. (TG)
U.S. flag and (fringed) SAR flag, 2 wooden poles 7' or 8' and no stands. (TG)

Branch mailing address:

General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR
P.O. Box 13
Willington, Connecticut 06279

The branch currently has 33 members.