The Connecticut Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Historic Sites & Celebrations
America 250 Committee

Committee 2026 Annual Report (April 12, 2025 – April 25, 2026)
(Report #10 – April 25, 2026)

The committee has held four meetings in Lebanon since the 2025 CTSSAR annual meeting on April 12, 2025; three at the War Office; Saturday May 10, 2025, Saturday August 16, 2025, Saturday November 1, 2025, and one at the First Congregational Church on Saturday January 24, 2026. SAR Magazine coverage: a photo and text regarding the CTSSAR "Captain Nathan Hale" SAR 250 Liberty Tree dedication appeared in the Spring 2025 (May) issue, a photo and text for the CTSSAR Lexington Alarm 250th anniversary patriot grave marking ceremony and CTSSAR "General Samuel McClellan" SAR 250 Liberty Tree dedication appeared in the Summer 2025 (August) issue, a photo and text for the CTSSAR "United States Constitution" and "General Israel Putnam" SAR 250 Liberty Tree dedications appeared in the Fall 2025 (November) issue, and a photo and text for the CTSSAR "General George Washington" SAR 250 Liberty Tree dedication appeared in the Winter 2025-2026 (February) issue. A photo and text for the CTSSAR U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps 250th anniversary patriot grave marking event has been submitted for the upcoming Spring 2026 (May) issue.

There were a lot of challenges the committee had to face this year. Many of the 250 events were held under rainy conditions. I googled it, "Connecticut experienced 16 consecutive weekends with rain in 2025. This streak began on the weekend of February 22-23, according to multiple local news sources. The 16th weekend was marked by rain on Saturday, June 14 and 15." We also had rain on Bunker Hill Day 250 on June 17, the 250th anniversary patriot grave marking ceremony at Starr Burying Ground on September 7, and the "General George Washington" SAR 250 Liberty Tree Dedication on October 12. The Society also hosted the 135th SAR Annual Congress in July at Mohegan Sun, and many committee members were involved in helping with that too. All in all, I think the committee did an amazing job this year. A special shoutout to the members of this committee and to the members of the CTSSAR who helped make these 250th anniversary events possible.

Since we re-organized the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee into the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee in November of 2023, this committee has organized SAR grave markings for 22 patriots of the American Revolution at Old Lyme, Groton, Windham, Woodstock, and New London.

As of this report, and since our annual meeting in April, **fourteen CTSSAR members have been approved by the NSSAR America 250 Committee for the 250th Anniversary Gold Medal**, twelve members have qualified for the 250th Anniversary Silver Medal, and many have qualified for the 250th Anniversary Bronze Medal. There is also good CTSSAR membership participation with over a hundred CTSSAR members attending at least one CTSSAR 250th anniversary event.

This committee is currently tracking member's SAR America 250 (and non-member) points. These points go towards earning 250th anniversary medals. It's IMPORTANT to note: if you participate in America 250 or 250th anniversary of the American Revolution events not organized by CTSSAR you must provide documentation

showing that these events qualify to earn points (example: 250 event programs, 250 event flyers, press releases, newspaper articles, screen captures, or something that states the event is commemorating America 250 or the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.). As stated on the recording form, **"Scorekeeping is the responsibility of <u>each compatriot</u> and awarding authority.** We do our best to keep track of points. Please keep me updated on CTSSAR branch 250 events so they can be properly recorded too. The more details you report to me, the more I can report to the CTSSAR, NSSAR New England District, NSSAR America 250 Committee, etc. I am trying to document our Society's America 250 activity with these quarterly and annual committee reports.

When you add up all the 250 events CTSSAR and its branches organized or were awarded for participating in this year, the Society has earned 27 America 250 SAR Award streamers. Adding the 10 streamers from last year will bring our grand total to 37 America 250 SAR Award streamers. CTSSAR has dedicated **<u>TWO</u>** SAR America 250 Granite Memorial Benches and **<u>NINE</u>** SAR America 250 Liberty Trees in Connecticut (so far). **CTSSAR deserves three huzzahs!!!**

Photo credits in this report: Compatriot Michael Bird, Compatriot Michael Brothers, Compatriot Timothy Burke, Brooke Chapman, Lydia Cumbie, Kelly Davis Photography, Compatriot Matthew Fergione, Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Compatriot Timothy Hill, Compatriot David Jones, Compatriot Marcus Larkin, Barbara Stewart, Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Compatriot David Wold.



The Connecticut Line CTSSAR at the Patriot's Day 250 Parade in Concord, Massachusetts



April 19, 2025 – 9:00 AM – Patriot's Day Parade 250th Anniversary, Concord, Massachusetts. **(The Connecticut Line CTSSAR Participated. Colonel David Perkins, Commanding.)**

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The Connecticut Line CTSSAR at the Patriot's Day 250 Parade in Lexington, Massachusetts

April 19, 2025 – 2:00 PM – Patriot's Day Parade 250th Anniversary, Lexington, Massachusetts. **(The Connecticut Line CTSSAR Participated. Colonel David Perkins, Commanding.)**

The Connecticut Line CTSSAR was the **ONLY SAR** unit to march in the afternoon Patriot's Day 250th Anniversary Parade in Lexington, Massachusetts, commemorating the "shot heard round the world." **Huzzah!**

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April 19, 2025 – Patriot's Day 250, Commemoration Event, "The Shot Heard Round the World," Town Hall, New Milford, Connecticut. **(Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch #10 CTSSAR)**

- Compatriot Peter Stothart read the names of the patriots buried at Upper Merryall Cemetery.
- Compatriot Michael Bird and the Mayor raised the Betsy Ross flag at the Town Hall.

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April 19, 2025 – Patriot's Day 250, Commemoration Event, Litchfield Congregational Church, Litchfield, Connecticut. **(Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch #10 CTSSAR)**

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April 26, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the Lexington Alarm, Woodstock Hill Cemetery, Woodstock, Connecticut. Grave marking ceremony for 5 patriots of the American Revolution: General Samuel McClellan, Captain Benjamin Lyon, Sr., Captain Ephraim Manning II, Doctor David Holmes, Jr., Private John Flynn. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriots Mark Sheldon, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Leads.)**

This 250th anniversary event was held and organized in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR living history/color guard detachment, the Eleventh Regiment of Connecticut Militia, which was organized in 1995, the oldest continuously running unit in the CTSSAR. It also marked Todd Gerlander's 30th year serving as branch color guard detachment Captain. To commemorate both anniversaries, we placed grave markers for five patriots who served in both the Eleventh Regiment of Connecticut Militia and answered the Lexington Alarm in April of 1775 after the skirmishes at Lexington & Concord, Massachusetts.

- A front-page article in the April 25th edition of **"The Woodstock Villager"** newspaper.
- The bells of the First Congregational Church rang 13-times for the 13 American Colonies, and the Church's Reverend Kevin Downer gave the Invocation.
- First Selectman Chandler Paquette attended and read the Town of Woodstock's Proclamation officially declaring April 26, 2025, as **"Lexington Alarm Day,"** in the Town of Woodstock.
- Compatriot Todd Gerlander spoke on the history of the "Eleventh Connecticut Militia Regiment" and "The Liberty Tree."
- Event photo & text appeared in the State & Chapter Events of the Summer 2025 SAR Magazine.

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April 26, 2025 – 2:30 PM – 250th Anniversary of the Lexington Alarm, CTSSAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of General Samuel McClellan, South Woodstock Common, Woodstock, Connecticut**. (Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriots Mark Sheldon, David Jones, Marcus Larkin, Leads.)** This was the 3rd SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut.



- A front-page article in the April 25th edition of **"The Woodstock Villager"** newspaper.
- The bells of the South Woodstock Baptist Church rang 13-times for the 13 American Colonies, and the Church's Reverend Robert Beckwith gave the Benediction.
- First Selectman Chandler Paquette attended and read the Town of Woodstock's Proclamation officially declaring April 26, 2025, as **"Lexington Alarm Day,"** in the Town of Woodstock.
- Compatriot Todd Gerlander spoke on the history of the "Lexington Alarm" and "The Liberty Tree."
- Event photo & text appeared in the State & Chapter Events of the Summer 2025 SAR Magazine.
- After the 250 ceremonies, Compatriots of the General Israel Putnam Branch #4 CTSSAR presented the Woodstock Trading Post an SAR Flag Certificate for flying the United States flag. When we saw that **"America's 250th Anniversary 1776-2026"** sign above their door last year when we had lunch there after investigating Woodstock Hill Cemetery, we knew they would be our branch's 2025 recipient.



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May 10, 2025 – Spring Committee meeting #6 held at the War Office. Committee members present (6): Mark Sheldon, David Jones, David Packard, Marcus Larkin, Todd Gerlander, and David Perkins. (Guests (2): Peter Stothart and Dayne Rugh)

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May 17, 2025 – 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of Deacon Joseph Mather of Darien, a staunch proponent of Independence from the pulpit and a Commissioned Officer who saw service in the siege of Fort St. John, Mather Homestead, Darien, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Roger Sherman Branch #5 CTSSAR. Compatriot Robert Clark, Lead.)** This was the 4th SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut.



- Participating were members of the Good Wife's River CTDAR chapter, Darien elected officials, and members of the community.



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June 7, 2025 – WAR OFFICE 250, Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the First Connecticut Council of Safety Meeting held at the War Office in Lebanon, Connecticut, on June 7, 1775. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lead. Compatriot Mark Sheldon War Office 250 Bench Lead.)**

- Event advertisement in the June issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.
- A front-page article with photo in the June 6th edition of the **"Willimantic Chronicle"** newspaper.
- The bells of the First Congregational Church rang 13-times for the 13 American Colonies.
- Compatriot Timothy Wilkins and his wife Mary Wilkins sang the National Anthem.
- Both Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Vice President General, NSSAR New England District, and Compatriot Paul Selnau, CTSSAR State President participated in the ceremonies.
- First Selectman Kevin Cwikla attended and read the Town of Lebanon's Proclamation officially declaring June 7, 2025, as **"War Office 250 Day,"** in the Town of Lebanon.
- CTSSAR presented a **SAR Flag Certificate** to First Selectman Kevin Cwikla for the Town of Lebanon flying the United States flag at the Town Hall.
- Compatriot David Perkins (NH Cincinnati member) read a letter of greetings from CT Society of the Cincinnati President Christopher Nichols.
- JoEllen Vasbinder, Regent of the Anne Wood Elderkin Chapter CTDAR brought greeting on behalf of the CTDAR.
- Compatriot Todd Gerlander (TCA member) read a letter of greetings from Wally Turnbull, Honorary Chief of the Turnbull Clan Association.
- Compatriot Dayne Rugh spoke on the "Connecticut Council of Safety," during the American Revolution.
- Compatriot Timothy Wilkins, CTSSAR Eagle Scout Chairman, held the CTSSAR Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony during this event for two Eagle Scout winners.
- Post-event article and photos in the July issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.
- Post-event article and photos in the August issue of the Scottish Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) Worldwide newsletter, the **"Bullseye."**

Another rainy Saturday event. It's unfortunate this event happened on one of the 16 weekends of consecutive rain, the Nathan Hale Ancient Fifes & Drums were scheduled to provide music, but we had to cancel those plans the day prior due to the weather forecasts.



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June 8, 2025 – 250th SAR Liberty Tree Marker Dedication, Putnam Hill Park, Greenwich, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Captain Matthew Mead Branch #11 CTSSAR. Compatriot David Wold, Lead.)** This dedication was to place the granite marker for the prior Liberty Tree planting on February 26, 2025.

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June 14, 2025 – U.S. ARMY 250, Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Founding of the Continental Army, June 14, 1775, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lead.)**

- June 14th is Flag Day, so we also set up a small (due to the rain) outdoor flag display.
- Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR presented a **SAR Flag Certificate** to the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, Connecticut.
- Event advertisement in the June issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.
- A front-page article with photo in the June 12th edition of the **"Willimantic Chronicle"** newspaper.
- The bells of the First Congregational Church rang 13-times for the 13 American Colonies.
- First Selectman Kevin Cwikla attended and brought greetings from the Town of Lebanon.
- Kenneth Roach, Governor of the Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America brought greetings from the F&P.
- Compatriot Dayne Rugh spoke on the "Continental Soldier" during the American Revolution.
- Compatriot Matthew Fergione, Sergeant First Class in the Army National Guard spoke on the modern United States Army.
- Compatriot Jerry Hazeldine, President of the Robert Treat Paine Chapter, MASSAR, spoke about, and presented CTSSAR a "Taunton Flag," in appreciation for our participation in **Liberty and Union 250**.
- Post-event article and photos in the July issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.
- A SAR Army 250 Event Report was sent to the NSSAR America 250 Committee.

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775 - 1783



UNITED STATES ARMY 250



Members of the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR present
a SAR Flag Certificate to the Jonathan Trumbull Library, Lebanon, Connecticut



The Connecticut Line CTSSAR at the Bunker Hill Monument NHP in Charlestown, Massachusetts

June 17, 2025 – 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, First Major Battle of the American Revolution, Bunker Hill Monument, Charlestown, Massachusetts. **(The Connecticut Line CTSSAR Participated. Colonel David Perkins, Commanding.)**

The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participated in the annual Bunker Hill Day services at St. Francis de Sales Church atop Bunker Hill, took part in the parade from the Church to the Bunker Hill Monument, stopping on route at the Bunker Hill Burying Ground (location of the rail fence during the battle) for a ceremony and musket salute. In addition to participating in the Bunker Hill Day 250 Commemoration Ceremony and musket salute at the Bunker Hill Monument, and placing a wreath at the Connecticut Gate for the Connecticut troops who took part in the battle (which The Connecticut Line CTSSAR does annually), CTSSAR placed a second wreath at the Connecticut gate in remembrance of Private Samuel Ashbow, Jr., a Mohegan, the first Native American to die in the American Revolution 250 years ago at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



Being the 250th anniversary, members of the Connecticut Line parked by the US Constitution for this year's Bunker Hill 250th event and we took advantage of an opportunity to get a photo with "Old Ironsides."

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July 4, 2025 (9:00 AM) – 250th Anniversary of the Second Continental Congress, Wreath Laying Ceremony for Connecticut Delegate Roger Sherman, Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Gen. David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR. Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead.)**

- Television news segment on Channel 8 WTNH. Also posted on YouTube.

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July 4, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Major David Smith, Lieutenant Thomas Catlin, Jr., 2nd Lieutenant Daniel Bradley, Sergeant Eli Smith, Private John Smith, East Cemetery, Litchfield, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch #10 CTSSAR. Compatriot Timothy Hill, Lead.)**

- Post-event article and photo in the **"Litchfield.bz"** a local news and sports website.



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July 13, 2025 – 135th SAR National Congress Tour to Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park: SAR 250th Anniversary Memorial Bench Dedication & Wreath Laying Ceremony, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park,

Groton, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Marcus Larkin, Tour Lead and SAR Fort Griswold Bench Lead.)** This event included a tour of the fort and monument house.



- NSSAR President General Darryl Addington participated in the ceremony **(National SAR Event)**.
- The Bill Memorial Library displayed Lieutenant Colonel William Ledyard's sword during the ceremony.
- The Connecticut Nutmeg Volunteer Junior Ancient Fife & Drum Corps provided music.
- The CTSSAR Fort Griswold SAR America 250 bench was partially funded by the SAR George Washington Endowment Fund.
- Compatriot Dayne Rugh spoke about the Battle of Groton Heights, September 6, 1781.
- Front page post-event article with photo in the November 20, 2025, issue of **"The Times"** newspaper.

"We will not give up the fort,
Let the consequences be what they may."

- Colonel William Ledyard
Commander – Fort Griswold – September 6, 1781

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July 13, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, CTSSAR Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for 5 patriots: Colonel John Durkee, General Jedediah Huntington, Christopher Leffingwell, Samuel Huntington, Zephaniah Bliss, Norwichtown Colonial Burying Ground, East Town Street, Norwich, Connecticut, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, Connecticut, July 12-18, 2025. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriots Dayne Rugh and Peter Stothart, Norwichtown Tour Leads.)**

- NSSAR President General Darryl Addington participated in the ceremony **(National SAR Event)**.
- Compatriot Dayne Rugh portrayed Colonel John Durkee.
- Compatriot Damien Cregeau portrayed General Jedediah Huntington.
- Visitation to French prisoner burial site.
- Musical presentation by State Troubadour Tom Callinan.

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Four SAR America 250 events were held during the 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT - July 12-18, 2025



July 16, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, CTSSAR plaque dedication honoring 30 Mohegans who served in the American Revolution, Mohegan Museum, Uncasville, Connecticut, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, Connecticut, July 12-18, 2025. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead.)**

- NSSAR President General Darryl Addington participated in the ceremony **(National SAR Event)**.

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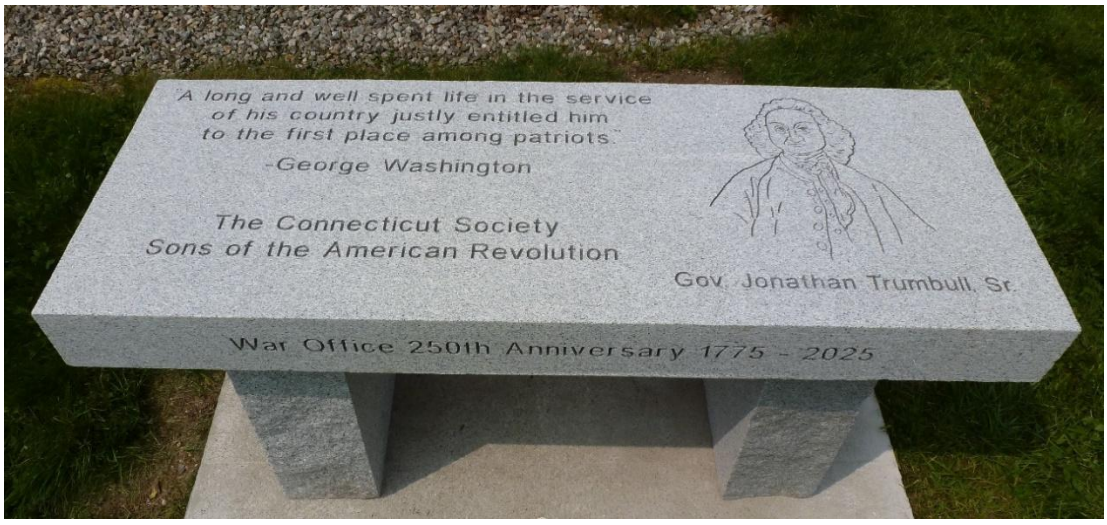
- **July 17, 2025** – 135th SAR National Congress Tour to Historic Lebanon: CTSSAR Gov. Jonathan Trumbull - War Office 250 Memorial Bench dedication ceremony, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. This short tour included tours of the First Congregational Church, War Office, Governor Jonathan Trumbull House and Wadsworth Stable, and the Lebanon Historical Society Visitors Center and Museum. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lebanon Short Tour Lead and Compatriot Mark Sheldon, SAR War Office 250 Bench Lead.)**



- NSSAR President General Darryl Addington participated in the ceremony **(National SAR Event)**.
- During lunch, First Selectman Kevin Cwikla read the Town of Lebanon's Proclamation officially declaring July 17, 2025, as **"Sons of the American Revolution Day"** in the Town of Lebanon.

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July 19, 2025 – SAR 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, CTSSAR Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Nehemiah Judson, James Judson, Isaac Judson, Sr., Nathan Preston, Rueben Mitchell., South Cemetery, Woodbury, Connecticut. A post-135th SAR Congress event. **(Organized by the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch #10 CTSSAR. Compatriot Michael Bird, Lead.)**

- Article and story appeared in the July 9th edition of the Woodbury **"Voices"** newspaper.
- Many out of state SAR members (who attended the SAR Congress) participated including Past President General John Dodd, a descendant of the Judson patriots (CA), Scott Collins (GA), Brett Osborne (VA), Mark Byars (NE), Jeffrey Willey (MO).

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August 16, 2025 - Summer committee meeting #7 held at the War Office on August 16, 2025. Committee members present (5): David Jones, Fred Lorthioir, David Packard, Todd Gerlander, David Perkins (Guests: Michael Brothers)

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PATRIOTIC HISTORICAL EDUCATIONAL



August 30, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the Naval Attack against Stonington, Connecticut (August 30, 1775), Stonington Lighthouse, Stonington, Connecticut. Organized by Historic Stonington and the Abigail Hinman Chapter NSDAR. **(Captain Nathan Hale Branch #6 CTSSAR)**

- The Captain Nathan Hale Branch served as Color Guard.
- Article and photo appeared in the **"New London Day"** newspaper.

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September 7, 2025 – 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, CTSSAR Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony

for 5 patriots: Captain Ebenezer Perkins, Lieutenant Obadiah Perkins, Ensign Joseph Woodmansee, Private Christopher Latham, Jr., Private Asa Perkins, Starr Burying Ground, Groton, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Marcus Larkin, Lead.)**

- Front page article with photos in the September 8th edition of the "**New London Day"** newspaper.
- Follow up article in the September 15th edition of the "**Norwich Bulletin"** newspaper.
- Jill Rusk, Groton Town Councilor spoke.
- Sydney A. Gardner, President, Starr Burying Ground Association spoke.
- Participating also were Juliette Parker, Groton Town Councilor and Compatriot Elwin Spray, OH and NH Society SAR.



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September 13, 2025 (11:00 AM) - 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication honoring the United States Constitution, Eastford, Connecticut. (CTSSAR) This is the 5th SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Mark Sheldon, Lead.)**

- This Liberty Tree project was financially funded by the Town of Eastford, Connecticut.
- Advertised on the Town of Eastford webpage, Eastford Public Library Facebook page, Eastford Elementary School flyer, Eastford News webpage, and WINY Radio Twitter page.
- Eastford First Selectman Deborah Richards read a Proclamation from the Town of Eastford.
- Event text appeared in the State & Chapter Events of the Fall 2025 SAR Magazine.



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September 13, 2025 (1:00 PM) – CTSSAR 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of General Israel Putnam, Putnam Elms (The home of his son, Colonel Daniel Putnam), Brooklyn, Connecticut. (CTSSAR) This

is the 6th SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Mark Sheldon, Lead.)**

- This Liberty Tree project was financially funded by the Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut.
- Advertised on the Town of Brooklyn webpage, Brooklyn First Selectman's Office Facebook page, Putnam Elms Facebook page.
- Brooklyn's First Selectman Austin Tanner read a Proclamation from the Town of Brooklyn.
- Captain Bill MacLaren, US Navy, Retired, Vice President, Board of Directors, Colonel Daniel Putnam Association spoke about Putnam Elms.
- Event photo & text appeared in the State & Chapter Events of the Fall 2025 SAR Magazine.



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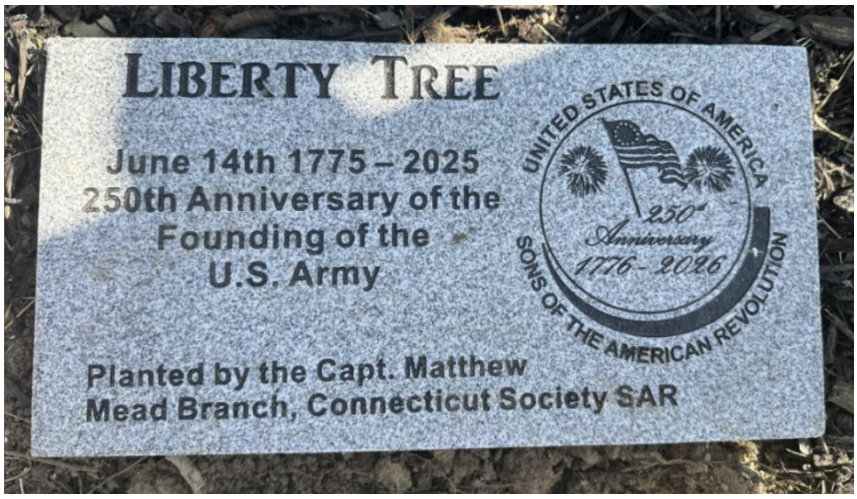
September 22, 2025 – 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of the U.S. Army 250th during Constitution Week, Fort Stamford Park, Stamford Connecticut. **(Organized by the Captain Matthew Mead Branch #11 CTSSAR. Compatriot David Wold, Lead.)** This is the 7th SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut. This Liberty Tree was planted on June 14, 2025, and dedicated on September 22, 2025.

- Greetings from Caroline Simmons, Mayor of Stamford, Connecticut.



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October 10, 2025 – United States Navy 250th Flag Raising Ceremony in honor of United States Navy Day, October 13, 2025, Greenwich Town Hall, Greenwich, Connecticut. A proclamation was read by the Town of Greenwich. **(Hosted by the Captain Matthew Mead Branch #11 CTSSAR. Compatriot David Wold, Lead.)**

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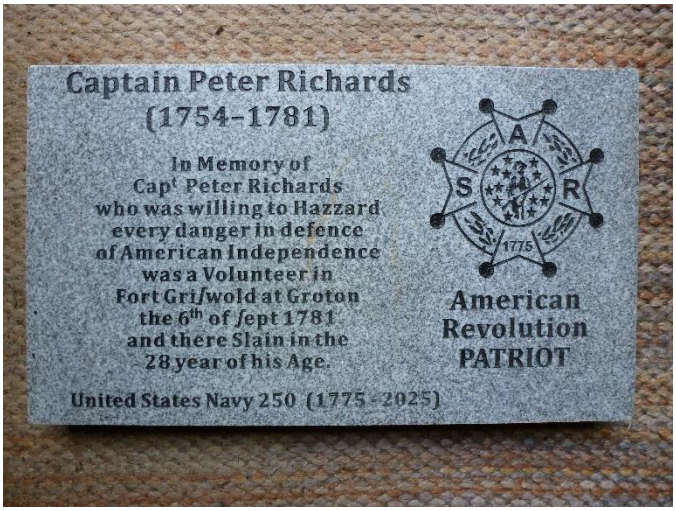
October 11, 2025 (11:00 AM) – CTSSAR United States Navy 250th and United States Marine Corps 250th Anniversary Commemoration Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony and Wreath Laying for 5 Connecticut patriots (3 Continental Navy and 2 Continental Marines): Navy Captain Elisha Hinman, Navy First Lieutenant Peter Richards, Navy Third Lieutenant Charles Bulkeley, 2nd Lieutenant of Marines Nathaniel Richards, 2nd Lieutenant of Marines Daniel Starr (buried at sea), Cedar Grove Cemetery, New London, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriots Marcus Larkin, David Jones, Leads.)**

A SAR United States Navy 250 granite grave marker was created for Continental Navy First Lieutenant Peter Richards which included the text of the original epitaph on his now broken gravestone.



- Advertised in the Connecticut Veterans Bulletin.
- Participants included active members of the Navy, the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, and veterans.
- Performances by Connecticut's 1st State Troubadour Tom Callinan, USMC Veteran.
- Michael Passero, Mayor of the City of New London attended the ceremonies and read a city proclamation.
- Gail McDonald from the Cedar Grove Cemetery Association spoke during the ceremonies.
- Front page follow-up article with photo in the October 12th edition of the **"New London Day"** newspaper.

- A SAR Navy & Marine Corps 250 Event Report was sent to the NSSAR America 250 Committee.





UNITED STATES
NAVY and MARINE CORPS 250
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October 12, 2025 (11:00 AM) – CTSSAR Governor Jonathan Trumbull 315th Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony and Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR Annual Meeting, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lead.)**

- Compatriot David Perkins, branch secretary, conducted the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch #13 CTSSAR Annual Meeting.
- Compatriot Mark Sheldon, 1st Vice President, brought greetings from the CTSSAR.
- Katherine Love, State Vice Regent, brought greetings from the CTDAR.
- Compatriot Todd Gerlander, branch historian, spoke on "The Trumbull Family of Lebanon, Connecticut, Descendants of the Turnbull Clan of Scotland."

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October 12, 2025 (12:00 PM) – CTSSAR 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of General George Washington, Lebanon Green (Across from the War Office), Lebanon, Connecticut. General George Washington visited Lebanon, Connecticut on March 5, 1781, where he reviewed the French troops of Lauzun's Legion on the Lebanon Green while on route to meet with the Comte de Rochambeau in Newport, Rhode Island. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lead.)** This is the 8th SAR Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut. This mature "Jefferson" elm tree was provided by the Town of Lebanon and Prides Corner Farms of Lebanon, Connecticut.

- Event advertisement in the October issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.
- A front-page article with photo in the October 10th edition of the **"Willimantic Chronicle"** newspaper.
- Compatriot Richard Kendall, CTSSAR state chaplain, read Washington's Prayer for the Invocation.
- First Selectman Kevin Cwikla read a town proclamation and brought greetings from the Town of Lebanon.
- Dennis Cronin, Chairman of the Lebanon Green Tree Replanting Committee for the Town of Lebanon discussed this project.
- Compatriot Mark Sheldon, 1st Vice President, brought greetings from the CTSSAR.
- Katherine Love, State Vice Regent, brought greetings from the CTDAR.
- Compatriot Todd Gerlander spoke on the history of the Liberty Tree and General George Washington's visit to Lebanon, Connecticut on March 5, 1781.
- Front page post-event article and photo in the November issue of the Town of Lebanon's "**Eyes on Lebanon"** newspaper.

We will be working with the town in 2026 to have a granite marker installed for this Liberty Tree to replace the current printed aluminum marker.





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October 18, 2025 (2:00 PM) – 250th SAR Patriot Grave Marking, Dedication of three new V.A. headstones and SAR markers for Corporal Ephraim Spencer, Private Asahel Peck, Private Lemuel Wooster, West Cemetery, Litchfield, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch #10 CTSSAR. Compatriot Michael Bird, Lead.)**

- Compatriot John Lilley initiated this project to have 4 V.A. headstones produced (3 of the V.A. headstones being at West Cemetery.).
- Rev. John M. Cooney of Litchfield gave the Invocation and Benediction.

- CTSSAR 2nd Vice President Timothy Hill brought greetings from the CTSSAR.
- First Selectwoman Denise Rapp brought greetings from the Town of Litchfield.
- Compatriots Michael Bird and Timothy Hill presented a SAR America 250 flag to First Selectwoman Denise Rapp.
- Compatriot John Cox brought greetings from the Litchfield Patriots.
- Compatriot John Lilley brought greetings from the American Legion Post 44.
- Ann Combs, President of the West Cemetery Improvement Association spoke during the ceremonies.

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October 25, 2025 (10:00 AM) – 250th SAR Liberty Tree dedication in honor of Joseph Knap, Stratford Historical Society, Stratford, Connecticut. **(Organized by the General David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR. Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead.)** This is the 9th SAR 250 Liberty Tree planted and dedicated in Connecticut.

- The Girl Scouts of America, Troop 30025 of Stratford, raised the American flag, and Compatriot Michael Bird played the bugle. The Girl Scouts of America also lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Compatriot Michael Krenesky read Washington's Prayer for the Invocation.
- Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick brought greetings from the Town of Stratford.
- Jolene Mullen, State Regent, brought greetings from the CTDAR.
- Amanda DeBiase, President of the Stratford Historical Society spoke about Joseph Knap.
- Event posted on the Town of Stratford's (October 30, 2025) News & Announcements webpage with event photos.

~ Liberty Tree ~





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SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



November 1, 2025 - Fall committee meeting #8 held at the War Office on November 1, 2025. Committee members present (6): Mark Sheldon Sr., David Jones, David Packard, John Cooke, Todd Gerlander, Marcus Larkin.

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November 8, 2025 (10:30 AM) – Veterans Roll Call & Historic Marker Dedication, SAR 250th Anniversary Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for General Solomon Cowles, Colonel Fisher Gay, Captain Elijah Porter, Sergeant Peter Curtis, and Lieutenant Noadiah Hooker, Memento Mori Cemetery, Farmington, Connecticut.

(Organized by the Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch #7 CTSSAR and Stanley-Whitman House Museum. Compatriot Richard Kendall, Lead)

- Citation from the Connecticut General Assembly – Rep. Michael Demicco, 21st District.
- Proclamation from the Town of Farmington, Joseph Capodiferro, Chair, Farmington Town Council.
- Welcome & Reflection – Andres A. Verzosa, Executive Director & Curator, Stanley-Whitman House.
- Event advertised online at Eventbrite.



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November 10, 2025 (10:00 AM) – 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, USMC Flag Raising and Town Proclamation, Town Hall, Greenwich, Connecticut. A proclamation was read by the Town of Greenwich. **(Hosted by the Captain Matthew Mead Branch #11 CTSSAR. Compatriot David Wold, Lead.)**



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December 13, 2025 (12:00 PM) – American Legion Post #180 Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Lebanon Town Hall, Lebanon, Connecticut (CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution wreath laying honoring patriots who served during the year 1775 (1775-2025). **(Organized by the American Legion Post #180, Lebanon, Connecticut)**

(Immediately following) CTSSAR Wreaths Across America wreath laying for Revolutionary War Veterans at Trumbull Cemetery, Lebanon, Connecticut. **(Organized by the Connecticut Society SAR. Compatriot David Packard, Lead)**



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December 13, 2025 (12:00 PM) – Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter CTDAR and General David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Kings Highway Cemetery, Milford, Connecticut (CTSSAR 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution wreath laying honoring patriots who served during the year 1775 (1775-2025). **(Organized by the Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter CTDAR and the General David Humphreys Branch #1 CTSSAR. Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead)**





January 24, 2026 - Winter committee meeting #9 held at the First Congregational Church in Lebanon, Connecticut. The Church was designed by Colonel John Trumbull (1756-1843), the youngest son of Connecticut's Revolutionary War "Rebel Governor" Jonathan Trumbull. He is known as the "Painter of the Revolution." The Church was built 1804-1807, and it is the only surviving example of his architectural work. Compatriots present (8) from left: John Cooke, Marcus Larkin, Mark Sheldon Sr, David Jones, David Packard, David Perkins, Fred Lorthioir, Todd Gerlander. We held this meeting on an extremely cold Saturday in January. I want to thank everyone for attending, and I also want to thank Compatriot John Cooke for opening the Church for our meeting. We try to hold a quarterly committee meeting prior to the four CTSSAR meetings (two Board of Managers and two all-member meetings). That way we can keep the board and membership up to date on what's happening. The meeting lasted almost three and a half hours, and a lot was discussed.



February 16, 2026 – Committee members David Perkins, Mark Sheldon Sr, Marcus Larkin, and CTSSAR Compatriots Michael Chuckta, Michael Juhase, and Robert Carrara attended a fund-raising dinner at the Outback Steakhouse in Southington, CT. This event was sponsored by CTVets250 who are working on creating a 250th anniversary Connecticut Revolutionary War Trail which would include the War Office.



February 18, 2026 – Compatriot David Packard and I attended the Lebanon Consortium Meeting at the Lebanon Historical Society to discuss the CRIS Radio Revolutionary War Sites 250 Project. This project involves all the historic sites around the Lebanon Green. CRIS Radio develops audio access for people who are blind or print challenged. The audio script for the War Office has been recorded and QR code signage is now being discussed.

February 26, 2026 – There was an event scheduled at Putnam Cottage that members of the Captain Matthew Mead Branch CTSSAR planned to attend which was cancelled due to snow, but Compatriot David Wold, President of the Captain Matthew Mead Branch CTSSAR was able to get a proclamation from the Town of Greenwich declaring the day "General Israel Putnam Day." The proclamation mentioned both the Sons of the American Revolution, America's 250th anniversary, and the Decade of the American Revolution.

February 28, 2026 – Following the annual Connecticut Line, CTSSAR living history/color guard meeting/luncheon at J. Timothy's Tavern in Plainville, CT, Compatriot David Perkins handed out SAR America 250 pins to the staff. J. Timothy's Tavern is flying both the Betsey Ross 13-star flag and an America 250 flag outside on their flagpole.

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March 17, 2026 – Evacuation Day 250th anniversary commemoration (March 17, 1776), Dorchester Heights NPS, Dorchester, Massachusetts.
(The Connecticut Line CTSSAR Participated. Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Larkin, Commanding.)



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March 22, 2026 – The CTSSAR Board of Managers approved the motion to print an 18" x 24" poster of the Declaration of Independence for each town in Connecticut. Compatriot Mark Sheldon is lead on this project. Hopefully every town in Connecticut will take part in the national Sharing the Spirit of America event on Wednesday July 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM. This event is being organized nationally by the State of Hawaii America 250 Committee to commemorate the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776. Currently CTSSAR is organizing a public reading at the Town Hall in Lebanon. Public readings are also happening in the towns of Woodstock, Eastford, etc.

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March 25, 2026 – Compatriot Marcus Larkin, committee member and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Connecticut Line CTSSAR gave a VIP tour for the Friends of Fort Griswold at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in Groton, Connecticut. The tour was for Governor Ned Lamont and five British Members of Parliament. Also in attendance were the City of Groton Mayor Jill Rusk and the Groton Town Mayor Juliette Parker. The Members of Parliament were very interested in future America 250 events in Connecticut. The tour was covered by WTNH channel 8 news, and a video of the news segment is posted on their YouTube page.



British Members of Parliament next to the CTSSAR America 250 granite memorial bench

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April 8, 2026 – Committee members and Connecticut Line members David Perkins (Colonel) and Marcus Larkin (Lieutenant-Colonel) gave a tour of Fort Griswold for WTNH channel 8 news' Spirit of America – Celebrate 250. A video of the news segment is posted on their YouTube page.

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Starting 2026, the Committee proposed $2000.00 for a 2026 committee budget. This is the same amount we requested in 2025. 2026 is America 250 and it is going to be very busy. To fund some of the CTSSAR America 250 projects this year we are going to try for more partnerships and ways to solicit donations, the $60 SAR grave marking medal donation for example.

CTSSAR has completed both SAR America 250 projects established by the NSSAR. CTSSAR dedicated **TWO** SAR America 250 granite memorial benches and planted/dedicated **NINE** SAR America 250 Liberty Trees (so far). Looking at the 2026 calendar below, it looks like CTSSAR and its branches will have planted/dedicated nineteen (possibly 20) Liberty Trees before July 4, 2026. The Sherman branch plans to dedicate an additional two Liberty Trees, and the Wadsworth branch plans to dedicate one which would bring CTSSAR's grand total to nineteen Liberty Trees, which is amazing! In the NSSAR New England District two out of six states (CTSSAR and RISSAR) have dedicated at least one SAR America 250 bench, and four out of six states (CTSSAR, MASSAR, NHSSAR, and VTSSAR) have dedicated at least one SAR America 250 Liberty Tree.

CTSSAR Past Memorial Bench 250 Dedications (2025):

1. Battle of Groton Heights – September 6, 1781 - SAR America 250 memorial bench, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, 07/13/2025 - CTSSAR
2. War Office 250/Governor Jonathan Trumbull - SAR America 250 memorial bench, War Office, Lebanon, 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun, 07/17/2025 – CTSSAR

CTSSAR (State and Branch) Past Liberty Tree 250 plantings and dedications (2024 - 2025):

1. Captain Nathan Hale Liberty Tree, East Haddam, 09/22/2024 – CTSSAR
2. Putnam Hill Park Liberty Tree, Greenwich, 02/26/2025 – Mead Branch CTSSAR
3. Gen. Samuel McClellan/Lexington Alarm 250 Liberty Tree, Woodstock, 04/26/2025 – CTSSAR
4. Deacon Joseph Mather Liberty Tree, Darien, 05/17/2025 – Sherman Branch CTSSAR
5. U.S. Army 250 Liberty Tree, Fort Stamford Park, Stamford, 06/14/2025 – Mead Branch CTSSAR
6. U.S. Constitution Liberty Tree, Eastford, 09/13/2025 – CTSSAR & Eastford
7. Gen. Israel Putnam Liberty Tree, Brooklyn, 09/13/2025 – CTSSAR & Brooklyn
8. Gen. George Washington Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 10/12/2025 – CTSSAR & Lebanon & Prides Corner Farms
9. Joseph Knapp Liberty Tree, Stratford, 10/25/2025 – Humphreys Branch CTSSAR & Stratford Hist. Society

CTSSAR (State and Branch) Future Liberty Tree 250 plantings and dedications (2026):

10. Colonel John Durkee Liberty Tree, Norwich, 5/3/2026 – Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich 250
11. Elisha Sheldon Sr./Colonel Elisha Sheldon Jr. (Sheldon's Horse) Liberty Tree, Litchfield, 5/9/2026 - CTSSAR
12. Liberty Tree, Weston, 5/9/2026 – Sherman Branch CTSSAR
13. U.S. frigate *Confederacy* African American/Native American shipbuilders/sailors Liberty Tree, Norwich, 6/7/2026 – Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich 250
14. Lt. Jabez Smith Jr. (Continental Marine) Liberty Tree, Groton, 6/13/2026 – CTSSAR
15. Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route 1780-1782 Liberty Tree, Bethel, 6/14/2026 – Baldwin Branch CTSSAR & Bethel Garden Club
16. Gov. Jonathan Trumbull/Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 6/20/2026 – CTSSAR & CTDAR
17. Colonel Thomas Knowlton Liberty Tree, Ashford, 6/27/2026 – CTSSAR & Scouting America
18. Liberty Tree, Norwalk, 00/00/2026 - Sherman Branch CTSSAR
19. Liberty Tree, Avon, 00/00/2026 - Wadsworth Branch CTSSAR
20. Liberty Tree, Union, 00/00/2026 - CTSSAR

The committee also hopes to replace the aluminum sign with a granite marker for the CTSSAR General George Washington Liberty Tree on the Lebanon Green across the street from the War Office that we dedicated last October. We will need to work with the town to get approval, I think this is possible after several discussions with town officials.

The CTSSAR Board of Managers approved funding, and Compatriot Mark Sheldon Sr. is printing an 18" x 24" frameable poster of the Declaration of Independence for each town in Connecticut. This poster will also have the SAR America 250 logo on it. This is being done as part of the national **Sharing the Spirit of America** event on July 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM (east coast). It's being organized nationally by the State of Hawaii America 250 Committee. In addition to the CTSSAR organized public reading in Lebanon, readings are also taking place in the towns of Woodstock and Eastford. Branches are encouraged to organize a reading in their local towns.

Compatriot Robert Rivard is also organizing this year's annual School Day at the Schoolhouse event at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam on Thursday June 4, 2026, as an America 250 event. This is a school event NOT open to the public. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of Captain Nathan Hale's death.

Compatriot Marcus Larkin has informed me that the Hale Branch is working on a Revolutionary War America 250 Bench with the Town of Groton to be dedicated on Veteran's Day on November 11th, and a 250th anniversary grave marking ceremony for 10 patriots of the American Revolution in Preston on August 22nd.

Below is the CTSSAR 2026 250th anniversary calendar of events as of this meeting. **Events in BOLD type are being organized by this CTSSAR 250 committee.** I have also added in NON-BOLD type the 250th anniversary event dates happening in the CTSSAR that have been reported to me which are being organized by CTSSAR branches as 250th anniversary events. It looks like another very busy year for CTSSAR. Keep in mind these are just the 250th anniversary events listed. When you include the CTSSAR color guard calendar, etc., on this list, there are very few (if any) open weekends leading up to, and on July 4, 2026, and America 250.

Sunday May 3, 2026
~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~
SAR America 250 Liberty Tree Dedication #10 in Honor of Colonel John Durkee
Bean Hill Green, Norwich, Connecticut – 1:00 PM
(Compatriot Dayne Rugh, Lead)
(Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich America 250 Committee)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday May 9, 2026
~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~
CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 Dedication #11 in Honor of Elisha Sheldon Sr. and Colonel Elisha Sheldon Jr. (Sheldon's Horse)
(Compatriot Mark Sheldon Sr, Lead)
Litchfield, Connecticut – 11:00 AM
(CTSSAR and the Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday May 9, 2026
~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~
SAR America 250 Liberty Tree Dedication #12
Weston, Connecticut
(Compatriot Robert Clark, Lead)
(Sherman Branch CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Thursday June 4, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

Annual School Day at the Schoolhouse
(250th Anniversary of the Death of Captain Nathan Hale, September 22, 1776)
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, Connecticut
(Compatriot Robert Rivard, Lead)
(The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Sunday June 7, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

SAR America 250 Liberty Tree Dedication #13 in Honor of African American and Native American Shipbuilders and Sailors of the U.S. frigate *Confederacy*
Howard T. Brown Park, Norwich, Connecticut – 1:00 PM
(Compatriot Dayne Rugh, Lead)
(Hale Branch CTSSAR & Norwich America 250 Committee)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday June 13, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 Dedication #14 in Honor of Continental Marine Lieutenant Jabez Smith Jr., mortally wounded aboard the US frigate *Trumbull* during battle with the British letter of marque ship *Watt*, June 1, 1780, one of the fiercest naval battles of the American Revolution
and
1-day Revolutionary War Encampment at the Jabez Smith House
Groton, Connecticut, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(Compatriot Marcus Larkin, Lead)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)



Sunday June 14, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

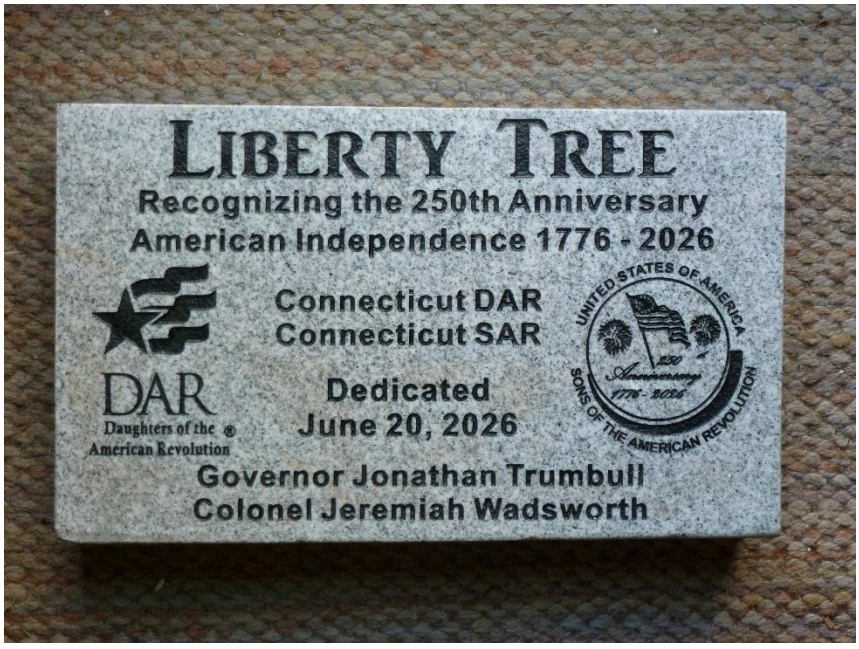
CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 Dedication #15
in Honor of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route 1780-1782
Bethel Garden Club, Bethel, Connecticut
(Compatriot David Perkins, Lead)
(Baldwin Branch CTSSAR & Bethel Garden Club)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday June 20, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

CTSSAR Connecticut Independence Day 250 Commemoration

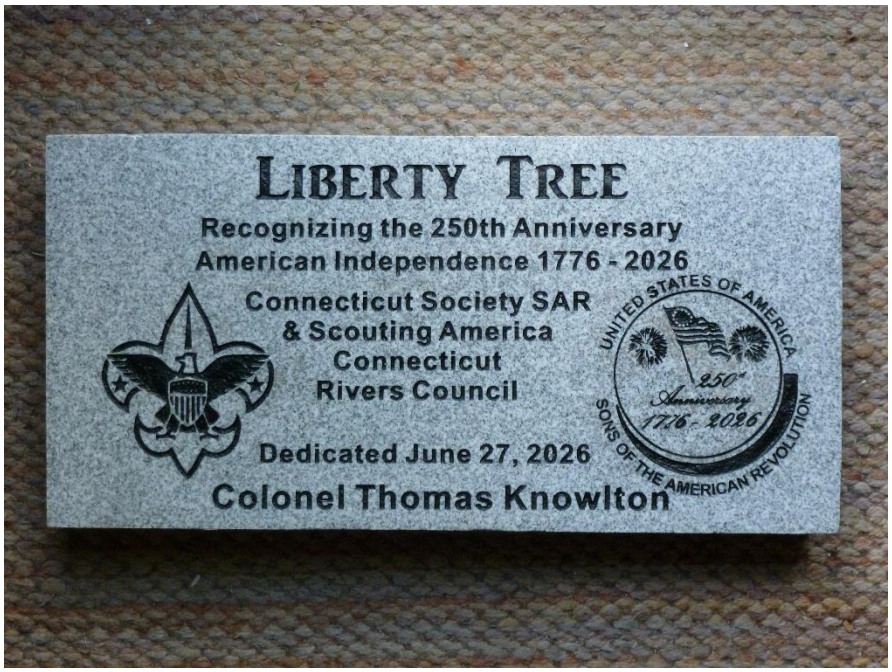
Commemorating Connecticut's own "Declaration of Independence," June 18, 1776, written by Governor Jonathan Trumbull, War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut
250th Anniversary Ceremony at 1:00 PM
The War Office will be open 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
and
CTDAR & CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 Dedication #16 - 11:00 AM
in Honor of Governor Jonathan Trumbull and Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth
Governor Jonathan Trumbull House/Wadsworth Stable, Lebanon, Connecticut
(Compatriots Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon Sr, John Cooke, Leads)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)



Saturday June 27, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

CTSSAR Liberty Tree 250 Dedication #17
in Honor of Colonel Thomas Knowlton
America's first military intelligence professional,
killed at the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776
June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation, Ashford, Connecticut
and
Dedication of the Colonel Thomas Knowlton Highway (portion of Route 44)
(Compatriots Todd Gerlander, Mark Sheldon Sr, John Cooke, Leads)
(Scouting America/Connecticut Rivers Council & CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)



July 2–6, 2026

~ AMERICA 250 ~

SAR Independence 250 Celebration
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday July 4, 2026

~ AMERICA 250 ~

Declaration of Independence 250
250th anniversary wreath laying ceremony for Connecticut signer Roger Sherman
Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, Connecticut, 9:00 AM
(Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead)
(Humphreys Branch CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday July 4, 2026
~ AMERICA 250 ~
Declaration of Independence 250
250th anniversary wreath laying ceremony for Connecticut signer Oliver Wolcott
East Cemetery, Litchfield, Connecticut, 11:30 AM
(Compatriot Tim Hill, Lead)
(Wolcott Branch CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday July 4, 2026

~ AMERICA 250 ~
Declaration of Independence 250
Honoring William Williams of Lebanon, Connecticut
250th anniversary wreath laying ceremony for Connecticut signer William Williams
War Office, Lebanon, Connecticut 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(Compatriots Todd Gerlander, David Packard, David Jones, Leads)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday July 4, 2026
~ AMERICA 250 ~
Let Freedom Ring 250
Litchfield Green, Litchfield, Connecticut, 1:30 PM
(Compatriot Tim Hill, Lead)
(Wolcott Branch CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Wednesday July 8, 2026

~ AMERICA 250 ~
Sharing the Spirit of America
CTSSAR 250th anniversary national public reading of the Declaration of Independence
Town Hall, Lebanon, Connecticut, 6:00 PM
(Compatriot Todd Gerlander, Lead)
(CTSSAR & Lebanon America 250 Committee)
~ Organized nationally by the State of Hawaii America 250 Committee ~
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Sunday September 6, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~
CTSSAR Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for five patriots of the American Revolution
Starr Burying Ground, Groton, Connecticut, 4:00 PM
(Compatriot Marcus Larkin, Lead)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday September 19, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

CTSSAR 250th anniversary rededication of General Joseph Spencer Headstone and 250th anniversary remembrance ceremony for Captain Nathan Hale, Connecticut State Hero
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, East Haddam, Connecticut
(Compatriot David Packard, Lead)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday December 19, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

Wreaths Across America
American Legion Lebanon Post #180 Ceremonies at the Lebanon Town Hall
Lebanon, Connecticut, 12:00 PM
SAR Wreath Laying for Revolutionary War Veterans of 1776 – America 250
and
CTSSAR wreath laying for Revolutionary War Veterans
at the Trumbull Cemetery immediately following
(Compatriot David Packard, Lead)
(Trumbull Branch CTSSAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

Saturday December 19, 2026

~ 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775-1783 ~

Wreaths Across America
King's Highway Cemetery, Milford, Connecticut, 12:00 PM
and
SAR Wreath Laying for Revolutionary War Veterans of 1776 – America 250
(Compatriot Ethan Stewart, Lead)
(Humphreys Branch CTSSAR and Freelove Baldwin Stow CTDAR)
(CTSSAR and The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participates)

I also want to start looking at 2027 and **WAR OFFICE 300**. 2027 will mark the 300th anniversary of the Trumbull Store/War Office (1727-2027). In 2025 we commemorated the 250th anniversary of the War Office, marking the first time it was used for that purpose on June 7, 1775, when the first meeting of the Connecticut Council of Safety was held there. According to tradition, Captain Joseph Trumble, Sr. (the father of Governor Jonathan Trumbull) had the Trumbull family store (which was later used by his son as the War Office 1775-1783) built in 1727. That's why we have the 1727 sign over the door. The War Office is registered as the *War Office (Captain Joseph Trumbull Store and Office) Lebanon, State of Connecticut, Connecticut Historical Commission, The National Register of Historic Places*. CTSSAR will want to do something BIG next year to commemorate that. The commemoration will probably take place on Saturday June 5, 2027, the War Office's opening day for the 2027 season.

The next CTSSAR 250 committee meeting will probably take place in May.

For the current schedule of CTSSAR America 250 events visit **www.SARconnecticut.org** and click the **America 250** tab. This calendar is updated regularly as events are confirmed.

Patriotically,

Todd Gerlander, Chairman
CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee

Committee members:
David Perkins
David Packard
Gary Pitcock
Mark Sheldon Sr.
David Jones
Marcus Larkin
John Cooke
Fred Lorthioir

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution 1775 – 1783

About the America 250 Projects of the Sons of the American Revolution

The America 250 SAR Project Committee members work on the national, state, and local levels to promote the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. It designs commemorative merchandise and SAR member insignia for the anniversary. This committee publicizes the anniversary using media, education, and government contacts. The 250th Anniversary Committee helps develop educational programs and booklets relating to the American Revolution, encourages the internationally focused SAR societies (including the Canada SAR, France SAR, Germany SAR, International SAR, Mexico SAR, Spain SAR, Switzerland SAR, and United Kingdom SAR) to plan special Congresses during the celebrations, and works with other SAR committees to coordinate celebration of the 250th anniversary.

For more information on the America 250 SAR Project please visit: **www.america250sar.com**

For more information on the National Society Sons of the American Revolution please visit: **www.SAR.org**

For more information on the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution please visit our website at: **www.SARconnecticut.org**

250th SAR Liberty Tree Program

CTSSAR Liberty Trees Dedicated (so far) = 9

SAR 250th Anniversary Memorial Bench Program

CTSSAR Memorial Benches Dedicated = 2