The Patriot Newsletter

Connecticut Society

Sons of the American Revolution

August 2026, Biannual Newsletter

Happy America 250!—Onward Through the Decade of the American Revolution!

By Mark W. Sheldon, Sr., President, CTSSAR

22 AUGUST 2026 — CONNECTICUT. I am humbled by the stunning response of our great society in the celebrations related to America 250. The CTSSAR have amassed an extraordinary record of patriotic service which is far too vast to list in just one document. In the countless chapter, state and individual initiatives to help ring in the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation, we continue to secure our position within Connecticut as a leader amongst the patriotic organizations who honor our Revolutionary War Patriots.

Our exemplary fulfillment of Liberty Tree plantings and dedication far exceeds any informal quota for a state society of our size, and for this we thank Todd L. Gerlander, Chairman of CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations, America 250 Committee. His tireless efforts to prioritize, coordinate and fulfill against the demands for America 250 events is truly noteworthy. This same America 250 Committee also led the equally successful distribution of commemorative replicas of the Declaration of Independence to over 169 Connecticut jurisdictions, and this led to may public readings around the time of the 250th anniversary.

The heart and soul of our enduring society's greatness is the Connecticut Line and Color Guard, who capture the spirit of freedom-loving citizens like few other symbols of America. Our society would dwindle in relevance if not for the tireless efforts of Colonel David J. Perkins, the commander of this elite unit whose selfless members answer the call for all things patriotic. A series of hearty "thank you" messages can be found throughout this newsletter for all CTSSAR members who answered the call of the "America 250 Alarm."

Fifty years from now, the descendants of our great society will look at the CTSSAR America 250 reports and use this legacy as a blueprint and roadmap when preparing for their contributions to the America 300 Tricentennial. Our headlong dedication to America 250 was originally a noble destination, and now it is a new beginning. We are organized and willing to enthusiastically continue our patriotic endeavors. There is more work to be done to identify, organize and celebrate our many hidden patriots of the American Revolutionary War; we must bequeath these "Patriotic breadcrumbs" to the future compatriots of our distinguished society—and ensure our enduring legacy of freedom. Along with our recent activities, this too will be the legacy that we leave for our future compatriots.

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Lt. Jabez Smith Liberty Tree	3	Grove Street Cemetery 4th July	11	Wadsworth Branch Tree Plaque	19
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SAR Education Outreach Program Event Held; Repaired Flagpole Used to Raise the Betsy Ross Flag at the Capt. Nathan Hale Schoolhouse

By Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, The Connecticut Line/Color Guard; Secretary, CTSSAR

4 JUNE 2026 — EAST HADDAM. Two sessions of students from East Haddam Elementary School participated in a SAR Education Outreach program there at the historic Nathan Hale Schoolhouse. Authentic colonial-era artifacts were on display to show the daily life of Revolutionary War soldiers, and CTSSAR compatriots were dressed in reenactment regalia to help transport the curious students back in time. Each session of students was separated into four groups, which were rotated through four different history stations, with a different topic for discussion at each.



Students of East Haddam Elementary School at a history station

The Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) were docents within the schoolhouse, and SAR compatriots manned the education stations outside. On-hand history instructors were Robert W. Rivard, in the persona of a surgeon; Frederick W.F. Rivard in the persona of a privateer; and in the persona of militia soldiers were David H. Packard, Derek R. Brockhoff, and David J. Perkins. The goal of these outreach program events is to perpetuate knowledge of our founding documents and stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the patriots who achieved independence.



Connecticut Line members unfurling their new Betsey Ross flag

***Thank You** to the Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter, East Haddam, Connecticut Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) for donation of this Betsy Ross Flag and funds to fix-up the schoolhouse.*



Flag raising completed!

In preparation for the arrival of the students, members of the Connecticut Line formed a color guard unit to honor the raising of a new Betsy Ross flag, using the school's new external lanyard. This newly installed lanyard replaced another that was in disrepair for several years, and which prevented the use of the enormous flagpole. One of two such historic schoolhouses that honor his name, this Nathan Hale Schoolhouse is located at 29 Main St., Route 149, East Haddam, CT 06423.

137th SAR National Congress
9-15 July 2027
New Orleans Marriott, located at
555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Mark Your Calendar!

The Southern District states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee will proudly host the 2027 Annual Congress.

18th CTSSAR Liberty Tree Dedication Honors Lieut. Jabez Smith, Jr.

By CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations—America 250 Committee

13 JUNE 2026 — GROTON. Lieutenant of Continental Marines Jabez Smith, Jr. (1851-1780) was honored with a Liberty Tree Dedication ceremony at the Jabez Smith House in Groton. Embarked upon the Continental Navy frigate *Trumbull* during the Revolutionary War, Lieut. Smith fought at one of the fiercest naval battles of the war against the British letter of marque ship *Watt* on 1 Jun 1780. Mortally wounded at the battle, he died a few weeks later on 28 Jun 1780. The dedication was a featured program event as part of CT Open House Day at the Jabez Smith House, which also featured The Connecticut Line—the Connecticut Society's Revolutionary War living history/color guard unit—who setup a one-day Revolutionary War encampment and talked to the public about the American Revolution (1775-1783). The open house also included the Anna Warner Bailey Chapter, Groton, of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR). For this dedication, a Proclamation was issued by Groton Mayor Juliette M. Parker to "encourage all citizens to join with the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution" and others on 13 Jun 2026, and "commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and the supreme sacrifice of Jabez Smith Jr. a Lieutenant of Marines on the "altar of freedom"…" This Liberty Tree Dedication was the 18th such event sponsored by the CTSSAR America 250 Committee and included the planting of an elm tree and the placement of a granite marker at the foot of the site.









22nd CTSSAR Liberty Tree Dedication Honors Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth on Connecticut Independence Day 250

By CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations—America 250 Committee

20 JUNE 2026 — LEBANON. Compatriots and interested guests gathered at the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House and nearby Wadsworth Stable to conduct a Liberty Tree Dedication in honor of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (1710-1785) and Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth (1743-1804). In partnership with the Connecticut Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR), this 22nd Liberty Tree Dedication by the CTSSAR included a "Jefferson" elm Liberty Tree that was planted behind the Wadsworth Stable, along with commemorative granite marker that is inscribed with the names of both distinguished patriots. The dedication date of 20 June 2026 also marked the historic *Connecticut Independence Day 250*, or the 250th anniversary of the State of Connecticut. Now, historical narratives recognize that heroism wins battles, and leadership and logistics win wars, and both honored patriots fit well into the latter category.

Serving as the 16th Governor of Connecticut from 1769 to 1784 and during the entirety of the Revolutionary War, “Rebel Governor” Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (1710-1785) is best known for helping to keep Gen. George Washinton’s Continental Army supplied. Washington has historically noted his appreciation of the vital support rendered by Gov. Trumbull and the State of Connecticut during the war. Trumbull was one of the few Americans who served as governor in both a pre-Revolutionary colony and a post-Revolutionary state. This patriot’s name is honored by Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13 of the CTSSAR.

Early in the Revolution, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth (1743-1804) was appointed to various committees by the Connecticut General Assembly to conduct large purchases of supplies for the army. In 1777, the Continental Congress elected him Deputy Commissary General of Purchases, and later he would serve as Commissary General until 1779. For the last few years of the war, he became commissary for BGen. Comte de Rochambeau’s 5,400 French army forces in the Americas. This patriot’s name is honored by Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7 of the CTSSAR.







Roger Sherman Branch Dedicates Two Liberty Trees, Participates in Wilton Revolutionary War Open House

By Robert L. Clark, Jr., 2nd Vice President, CTSSAR, & President, Roger Sherman Branch No. 5

25 JUNE 2026 — WESTON, NORWALK, WILTON. Sherman Branch 5 completed their second and third Liberty Tree 250 plantings and dedications in conspicuous style. As CTSSAR's 11th such event, it was held during the Colonial Encampment with the 5th Connecticut Regiment, which was an all-day event on 16 May 2026 at the Weston History & Culture Center in Weston, Connecticut. The dedication kicked off a full day of colonial era demonstrations and activities. Honored there with this tree planting and granite marker was Pvt. Isaac Godfrey (1747-1834), who served for a total 12 months during the Revolutionary War. One six-month term of enlistment for Pvt. Godfrey shows him serving in Capt. Elijah Abel's Company of Col. Philip Burr Bradley's Battalion, of BGen. James Wadsworth's Brigade of Connecticut State Troops during the Battle of Fort Washington in 1776. Godfrey received a pension for his war service.

The third Liberty Tree Dedication for Sherman Branch 5—and the 20th for CTSSAR—was conducted on 18 Jun 2026 at the property of the Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6 of the Connecticut Freemasons in Norwalk, Connecticut. Honored there with this tree planting and granite marker was Lieutenant Colonel Stephen St. John (1735-1785), who served during the Revolutionary War as a Major in Col. Samuel Whiting's 1st Battalion of MGen. David Wooster's Brigade of Connecticut State Troops. His primary unit of assignment was the 9th Connecticut Militia Regiment, where he started the war at the rank of Major, and later served as its Lieutenant Colonel and second in command to Col. John Mead. Lt.Col. St. John served in a variety of other capacities during the war and is also recognized for his distinguished civil



Sherman Branch 5 and attendees at Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6 of the CT Freemasons in Norwalk



Michael Hansen of Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6 of the Connecticut Freemasons

and patriotic service. Instituted in 1765, Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6 appears now to be partially named after Lt.Col. St. John. Rounding out the activity for Sherman Branch 5 during this period was their 25 Jun 2026 attendance at the Revolutionary War Open House Day in Wilton, Connecticut, which was hosted by the Wilton Historical Society. The open house included skilled demonstrators in blacksmithing, weaving, and colonial medicine practices. Also featured was the 5th Connecticut Regiment reenactment group, who setup an authentic encampment on the grounds to show the daily life of Revolutionary War soldiers.

Roger Sherman Branch at the Wilton Revolutionary War Open House



Compatriot Edd Eckert (left) at Wilton Open House Day, Wilton Historical Society



Wilton Open House Day, Wilton Historical Society

Roger Sherman Branch Donates Historical Research on the Morehouse Family to the Museum of Darien

By Edd Eckert, Chaplain and Vice President, Roger Sherman Branch No. 5

28 MAY 2026 — DARIEN. Continuing their long tradition as a key stakeholder in thought-leading research in Fairfield County, Sherman Branch 5 donated the Morehouse Notebook of Family Research to the Museum of Darien, which was established in 1953 as the Darien Historical Society. The donation included a notebook of the hard copy of the Morehouse slide loop, and a flash drive holding the loop. Of historical interest in the donation is that Phil and Alan Morehouse were direct descendants of prominent DAR and SAR Patriot Rev. Dr. Moses Mather, D.D. (1719-1806), a resident of what was then called Middlesex Parish, which is today called Darien, Connecticut. The champions of the donation were Edd Eckert, branch Chaplain and Vice President; and his wife Madeleine Eckert, of the Norwalk-Village Green Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR).

Representing the Museum of Darien were Amy Allen, Executive Director, and Emily Koch, Assistant Executive Director. In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War and continuing through to Jul 2027, the Museum of Darien is featuring the "War Comes to Middlesex: A Revolutionary Exhibition." This exhibit highlights local involvement in the war and features artifacts from the era, with special living history events scheduled. (https://museumofdarien.org/exhibitions/) Preliminary discussions have begun with the Museum of Darien to host future events that would feature one or more of the Eckerts' slide lectures, such as *The Sally: The Exciting Adventures of a Connecticut Merchant Sloop During the American Revolution*, and *Our National Symbol: The American Bald Eagle*.

CTSSAR Board of Managers Meeting
3 October 2026—Saturday

Details to be sent soon by email!

Mark Your Calendar!

Where decisions are made and agendas are forged. Meet your state society's officers. All CTSSAR members are welcome.

Oliver Wolcott Color Guard Participates in Dedication of Comte de Rochambeau Memorial Monument

By Timothy S. Hill, President, Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10; Major, The Connecticut Line

27 JUNE 2026 — MIDDLEBURY. The Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch Color Guard participated in the unveiling ceremony of the new Rochambeau Memorial Monument at Meadowview Park in Middlebury. Named Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur (1725-1807), or Comte de Rochambeau, he was a French brigadier general whose leadership played a crucial role in America's fight for independence. In 1780, during the American Revolutionary War, King Louis XVI sent BGen. Rochambeau to lead a French expeditionary force of 5,000 soldiers in support of General George Washington's Continental Army. The Rochambeau Monument Project is a major initiative of the Middlebury Historical Society. The ceremony marked the 245th anniversary of the French army's encampment in Middlebury. (https://www.middleburyhistoricalsociety.org/rochambeau-project/).



Of Connecticut, Governor Ned Lamont and US Senator Richard Blumenthal; and Lt.Col. (H) Patrick du Tertre.

In attendance at the ceremony were Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont; Connecticut Senior United States Senator Richard Blumenthal; the ancient Lancraft Fife and Drum Corps based in North Haven, Connecticut; and many other dignitaries. A featured speaker was Lieutenant Colonel (H) Patrick du Tertre, 1st Vice President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of French and American soldiers who fought for freedom. Lt.Col. du Tertre gave a compelling and inspirational speech about the 2,200-plus French soldiers that gave their lives for our Revolution. The nearby area of Breakneck Hill in Middlebury was the ninth encampment on BGen. Rochambeau's historic march from Rhode Island through Connecticut. Du Tertre's speech also noted America's participation during both World Wars in France.



Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch Color Guard

CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations – America 250 Committee: *3 Huzzahs!*

- Todd L. Gerlander, Chairman
- David J. Perkins
- David H. Packard
- Gary S. Pitcock
- Mark W. Sheldon, Sr.
- David A. Jones
- Marcus S. Larkin
- John R. Cooke
- Frederick R. Lorthioir

AMERICA 250™

Compatriot Dayne Rugh Featured in Newspaper Article for His Performance as a Reenactor of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull

By Dayne E. Rugh, President, Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6



Compatriot Dayne Rugh. Photograph Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media, found online at ctinsiders.com, Copyright © 2026 Hearst Media Services Connecticut, LLC.

1 JULY 2026 — HARTFORD. Dayne Rugh enlivened the audience at Connecticut's Old State House, where he delivered a speech that depicted Revolutionary War Connecticut Gov. Jonathan Trumbull during a commemorative reenactment event entitled *"A Night at the Tavern: Defiance & Declaration: Connecticut 1776."* Described as a historical presentation on Connecticut's road to independence, the event was led by Matthew Warshauer, a history professor at Central Connecticut State University. During the production Compatriot Rugh was dressed in colonial-era regalia in the guise of Gov. Trumbull and is featured talking to the tavern-goers and reading from the Connecticut Declaration. With the plot centered around a tavern, the performance included variety of colonial-era "musick," songs and beer. The reenactment also included a reading of Connecticut's own Declaration of Independence from June 1776 and was held as part of the larger America 250 celebrations. Dayne's picture and related information was found in a 4 July 2026 newspaper article written by Ken Dixon, a staff writer for the Connecticut Post.

2026 Connecticut Line & Living History Campaign Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Detachment	Contact
Sat Aug 22		Patriots Grave Markings — 9 Patriots at Poquetanuck Cemetery in Preston, CT	Hale	Marcus Larkin
Sat Sept 5		Lime Rock Racetrack – Wolcott Detachment Encampment	Wolcott	Tim Hill
Sun Sept 6	4pm	Patriots Grave Markings at Starr Burying Ground in Groton, CT	Hale	Marcus Larkin
Sun Sept 6	6pm	245th Anniversary — Battle of Groton Heights (N)		Dave Perkins
Sat Sept 19		250th Anniversary — Capt. Nathan Hale, East Haddam Schoolhouse & Gen. Spencer HS	Hale	Dave Packard
Sun Sept 20		Massing of the Colors 2026 — First Congregational Church UCC in Bristol, CT Sponsor NSDU (N)		
Sun Oct 11		Gov. Trumbull 316th Birthday/War Office in Lebanon, CT		Todd Gerlander
Sat Oct 17		Patriots Grave Markings at Hillside Cemetery in Wilton, CT		Marcus Larkin
Sat Oct 17		Patriots Garve Markings in Stratford, CT — 2 Events	Humprheys	Ethan Stewart
Sat Nov 7		Patriots Grave Markings in Farmington, CT	Wadsworth	Robert Carrara
Wed Nov 11		NSSAR Veterans Day events (N)		
Sat Dec 19		NSSAR Wreaths Across America in Bantam and Milford and Lebanon, CT (N)		

Monitor your email and check Facebook for more events. Subject to changes, additions and cancellations.



Patriot Grave Marking Medal — Start Now! The Patriot Grave Marking Medal recognizes both past efforts to identify and report data on Revolutionary War graves and to encourage new efforts to identify graves. To qualify for the Patriot Grave Marking Medal, the member participated in a prominent role during the planning and execution of the grave marking. Get involved and find out more! ***"A Perfect Way to Stay Involved"***

Proud Compatriots of CTSSAR Activated for Robust Celebrations and Commemorations Throughout the Lively Independence Day 250 Weekend

By Todd L. Gerlander, Chairman, CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations - America 250 Committee

3-8 JULY 2026 — CONNECTICUT. It was a Happy Independence Day 250 Weekend! A lot happened this weekend with CTSSAR. No doubt, our burgeoning CTSSAR America 250 quarterly and annual reports of this weekend will chronicle the many exemplary contributions of our eager society! This roundup of activity only scratches the surface of our engagement this historic weekend; be sure to see the news of individual branches later in this newsletter and Facebook.

On Friday, 3 July 2026, CTSSAR State President Mark W. Sheldon, Sr. and Marcus S. Larkin, Lieutenant Colonel of the Connecticut Line were in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to march with the NSSAR Color Guard in their Independence Day 250 Parade. Although the larger parade was cancelled due to the extreme heat, our NSSAR still held America 250 activities there. The text of the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on 4 July 1776 at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, now called Independence Hall.



Compatriots Mark Sheldon and Marcus Larkin at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, carrying the Connecticut and Rhode Island state flags

On Saturday, 4 July 2026, the CTSSAR held America 250 ceremonies at our Lebanon War Office to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which also honored Connecticut signer Hon. William Williams (1731-1811). Also, we opened the War Office from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM and hosted more than 62 visitors. Occurring at 2:00 PM that same day, CTSSAR also participated in the Town of Lebanon's *Let Freedom Ring* 250 event. Championed by the Lebanon's America 250 Committee, Lebanon churches rang their bells to celebrate American independence, and bells also rang out across America at sites like Independence Hall, The Alamo, The National Cathedral, and The USS Arizona Memorial.



Compatriot Todd Gerland, members and attendees at the Lebanon War Office

On Wednesday, 8 July 2026 the *Sharing the Spirit of America* program commemorated the 250th anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, which occurred in Philadelphia on 8 July 1776. Similar readings occurred throughout Connecticut on different days and CTSSAR was active. At the public reading at the Lebanon Town Hall, eight CTSSAR members attended a reading in colonial attire. Sherman Branch 5 shared in the reading with CTDAR at the Westport Library in business attire. Spilling over into 14 July 2026, Wadsworth Branch 7 presented a commemorative replica of the Declaration of Independence to the Town of Glastonbury, and a reading occurred that day at their Town Council meeting. There are so many other examples of great effort by CTSSAR compatriots in alignment with this marquee program—169 Connecticut Towns were contacted.

Proud Compatriots of CTSSAR (*Continued…*)

The marquee *SAR America 250 Liberty Tree Project* finished with outstanding results for CTSSAR, which helped blossom many patriotic partnerships, with 23 such plantings and dedications winding up around the holiday weekend. I am sure this blueprint for commemorations will endure for years to come. As an update to Gen. George Washington Liberty Tree, that was dedicated last year on 12 October 2025 across the street from our Lebanon War Office… It was inspected on Independence Day, it is doing great, and it is thriving from the attention it gets near the walking trail around the Lebanon Green. Perhaps future scheduled Liberty Tree maintenance will become another event to bring patriots together.

Who doesn't love a parade? Well, CTSSAR was literally leading the parade during numerous processions on Independence Day and afterwards. Described as a beloved community tradition, members of Hale Branch 6 marched in Groton's 4 July 2026 250th Parade that drew thousands of spectators. Wadsworth Branch 7 was joined by members of Humphreys Branch 1 during the 11 July 2026 Simsbury-Farmington Valley 250th Parade and Celebration.



Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch Color Guard at East Cemetery in Litchfield

At a graveside ceremony on 4 July 2026 at the East Cemetery in Litchfield, Wolcott Branch 10 joined with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, Litchfield, CTDAR, and the First Litchfield Artillery Regiment in a salute to two distinguished Revolutionary War patriots: Lt.Col. Benjamin Tallmadge (1754-1835), Gen. Washington's Spy Master; and Gov. Oliver Wolcott, Sr. (1726-1797), signer of the Declaration of Independence, militia brigadier general, and namesake of their Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10, CTSSAR. The event included a wreath laying. The Connecticut Line Color Guard was also on hand to render one of their famous musket salutes. Many events during the day centered around the Litchfield Town Green, and local church bells rang out after the cemetery ceremonies related to the nationwide "*Let Freedom Ring*" ceremonies, which featured a 13-cannon salute by the First Litchfield Artillery Regiment to honor the original colonies.

As is their annual tradition on 4 July 2026, Humprheys Branch 1 held their 74th Annual Ceremonies to Honor the Signers of the Declaration of Independence at Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, and a few hundred spectators were on hand to celebrate and commemorate in this very special year. CTSSAR and other patriotic organizations honored Honorable Roger Sherman (1721-1793), General David Humphreys (1752-1818) and many others with memorable ceremonies and reenactments. And not forgetting our society's patriotic administrative duties, two new society members were sworn in at the event, as well. Don't miss a fuller story about this day in New Haven, shown later in the newsletter.

Humphreys Branch Conducts Robust Event at the Famed Grove Street Cemetery During its 74th Annual 4th of July Ceremony

By Christopher D. Bandecchi, President, General David Humphreys Branch No. 1

4 JULY 2026 — NEW HAVEN. During its 74th annual 4th of July ceremony whose attendees have grown in number with each succeeding year, Humphreys Branch 1 led this year's event at Grove Street Cemetery against the glorious backdrop of the America 250 celebrations. President Christopher Bandecchi began the services with opening remarks, followed by the invocation led by Richard W. Kendall, who later led the benediction. The National Anthem was sung by Compatriot Timothy C.R. Wilkins and his wife Mary, Gretchen Loda, and The Second Company Governor's Foot Guard Field Music Unit. A roll call followed that honored 30 members of Connecticut's Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard who are buried at the cemetery. Following a musket volley by the Connecticut Line and the 6th Connecticut Regiment's ("6th CR") Company of Light Infantry, the program included grave markings and services to honor to four Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots.

- **Honorable Elizur Goodrich (1761-1849)**. Yale College student who defended against the 1779 Invasion of New Haven. US House of Representatives. Biography read by Compatriot Vincent J. Pitts.
- **Private Joseph Mix, Jr. (1740-1813)**. 13th Connecticut Militia Regiment. Engaged at CT and NY in Jun 1779. Biography read by Compatriot Michael A. Krenesky.
- **Honorable Roger Sherman, Sr. (1721-1793)**. Founding Father and the only man to sign all four founding documents of the United States. Address read by Compatriot Richard W. Kendall.
- **General David Humprheys (1752-1818)**. Aide-de-Camp to Gen. George Washington. Life highlights reenacted by Captain Dave Loda, 6th Connecticut Regiment ("6th CR").



Capt. Dave Loda of the 6th CR w/horse "Huckleberry," in role as Lt.Col. David Humphreys, who served with a different 6th CR during the war. Wreath presented at the grave of Gen. Humphreys by Bonnie Towle, CT Society of Mayflower Descendants.



Pres. Christopher Bandecchi swears-in Mr. Phinneas J. Lattanzi and Dr. Joseph J. Erdos, M.D.—whose 4 July 2026 new-member certificates show they were admitted to the SAR on the 250th anniversary of the United States!

Following the services for the four patriots, the 6th Connecticut Regiment ("6th CR") conducted a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the grave site of a 6th CR veteran. After the SAR ceremonials, the 6th CR marched to the grave site of a 6th CR veteran that included a reading of the names of 6th CR members who were killed in action (KIA), and those buried at the cemetery. During the day, the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard Field Music Unit played selections from the Revolutionary War period. This day's event marked the Seventy-Fourth Annual Ceremonies to Honor the Signers of the Declaration of Independence at Grove Street Cemetery.

Thank You — SAR America 250 Liberty Tree Project Participants

By Todd L. Gerlander, Chairman, CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations - America 250 Committee

4 JULY 2026 — CONNECTICUT. *CTSSAR deserves three Huzzahs!!!* On behalf of the members of the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations' America 250 Committee, I would like to thank everyone in CTSSAR who planted and dedicated a Liberty Tree, as part of the NSSAR America 250 Liberty Tree Project. Our NSSAR has exceeded its goal of 250 Liberty Trees planted and dedicated before 4 July 2026. Nationally, we are currently somewhere around 280 Liberty Trees planted in 41 states. Connecticut SAR and its branches ended the campaign with 23 of these Liberty Trees planted or dedicated by 4 July 2026. Stated by Gen. Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1838) on his historical final visit to the United States in 1825, "The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals." This maxim by one of the great Revolutionary War patriots continues to spur us to action centuries later.

A history of the Liberty Tree was found in the recent Avon Liberty Tree dedication program. The Liberty tree was a large elm tree, planted about 1646, that was the site of gatherings of Boston citizens in the 1760s who sought independence from the British Empire. The Massachusetts Sons of Liberty, a secret society of men who advocated for the rights of colonists, would meet at the tree and stage protests against taxation. The largest protest was in 1765 when the Stamp Act was announced. An effigy of the English stamp collector, Andrew Oliver (1706-1774), hung from the tree's branches. After the repeal of the tax, citizens hung lanterns from its branches in celebration. Protests took place under that tree throughout the 1760s and 1770s. In March 1770, the funeral procession for the victims of the Boston Massacre passed by the tree. This historic tree became a beacon of hope to colonists and a symbol of American freedom. In a failed attempt to stymie these defiant colonists, the British destroyed this original "Boston" Liberty Tree in 1775, during the Siege of Boston; the tree was cut down and burned by the British. While it no longer existed, it remained an enduring symbol of freedom and liberty. In subsequent gestures of patriotic defiance, this martyred tree became a symbol of renewed spirit, and patriots throughout the 13 American colonies began to designate new Liberty Trees in their communities. The contemporary program of tree plantings honors these early gestures of patriotic defiance.

"Something else. The visitors confirmed something—that the American character still lives at the street level, in ordinary encounters. They documented what endures and is genuinely lovable. For me, as I scrolled through them at night, as I thought about why I was so drawn to them, I realized: I am moved because they prove the thing I love is actually there. Those young visitors, who saw us clearly and said what they saw, gave us a little 250th birthday present. And here, soon, it comes. No party owns this birthday, no president has dibs on its meaning; we're simply marking an epic journey through history as a people who invented a new political arrangement for man, who knew how to survive, how to triumph, and still care about the opinion of the stranger."

— **Peggy Noonan**, "*The Tartan Army Takes America,*" World Cup visitors learn what our country has to offer—and remind us of it at the same time. The Wall Street Journal, 25 June 2026.

Summary of SAR America 250 Projects for CTSSAR

Two Memorial Benches and 23 Liberty Tree Dedications as of 4 July 2026.

2025 Memorial Bench 250 Dedications, CTSSAR

1. Battle of Groton Heights, 6 September 1781. SAR America 250 Memorial Bench, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton; dedicated at 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun Resort, 13 July 2025, by CTSSAR.
2. War Office 250/Governor Jonathan Trumbull. SAR America 250 Memorial Bench, War Office, Lebanon; dedicated at 135th SAR Congress at Mohegan Sun Resort, 17 July 2025, by CTSSAR.

2024-2025 Liberty Tree 250 Plantings and Dedications, State and Branch CTSSAR

1. Capt. Nathan Hale Liberty Tree, East Haddam, 22 September 2024, CTSSAR
2. Putnam Hill Park Liberty Tree, Greenwich, 26 February 2025, Mead Branch 11, CTSSAR
3. BGen. Samuel McClellan/Lexington Alarm 250 Liberty Tree, Woodstock, 26 April 2025, CTSSAR
4. Dea. Joseph Mather Liberty Tree, Darien, 17 May 2025, Sherman Branch 5, CTSSAR
5. U.S. Army 250 Liberty Tree, Stamford, 14 June 2025, Mead Branch 11, CTSSAR
6. U.S. Constitution Liberty Tree, Eastford, 13 September 2025, CTSSAR, Eastford
7. MGen. Israel Putnam Liberty Tree, Brooklyn, 13 September 2025, CTSSAR, Brooklyn
8. Gen. George Washington Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 12 October 2025, CTSSAR, Lebanon, Prides Corner Farms
9. Joseph Knapp Liberty Tree, Stratford, 25 October 2025, Humphreys Branch 1, CTSSAR, Stratford Historical Society

2026 Liberty Tree 250 Plantings and Dedications, State and Branch CTSSAR

10. Elisha Sheldon, Sr. and Colonel Elisha Sheldon, Jr., “Sheldon’s Horse” Liberty Tree, Litchfield, 9 May 2026, CTSSAR
11. Isaac Godfrey Liberty Tree, Weston, 16 May 2026, Sherman Branch 5, CTSSAR, Weston History and Culture Center
12. Patriots of the American Revolution Liberty Tree, Union, 30 May 2026, CTSSAR, Union
13. Patriots of the American Revolution Liberty Tree, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, 30 May 2026, CTSSAR, Old Sturbridge Village; dedicated on behalf of the New England District SAR
14. Sgt. Daniel Myers Liberty Tree, 6 June 2026, Middletown, New York, Compatriot Dan Myers, CTSSAR
15. Hillside Cemetery Revolutionary War Veterans Liberty Tree, 6 June 2026, Middletown, New York, Compatriot Dan Myers, CTSSAR
16. Col. John Durkee Liberty Tree, Norwich, 7 June 2026, Hale Branch 6, CTSSAR, Norwich 250
17. U.S. Frigate Confederacy Sailors and Shipwrights Liberty Tree, Norwich, 7 June 2026, Hale Branch 6, CTSSAR, Norwich 250
18. Lieut. Jabez Smith, Jr., Continental Marines, Liberty Tree, Groton, 13 June 2026, CTSSAR
19. Northington Revolutionary War Soldiers Liberty Tree, Avon, 13 June 2026, Wadsworth Branch 7, CTSSAR
20. Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route 1780-1782 Liberty Tree, Bethel, 14 June 2026, Baldwin Branch 9, CTSSAR, Bethel Garden Club
21. Lt.Col. Stephen St. John Liberty Tree, Norwalk, 18 June 2026, Sherman Branch 5, CTSSAR, Old Well-St. Johns Lodge No. 6, Connecticut Freemasons
22. Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth Liberty Tree, Lebanon, 20 June 2026, CTDAR, CTSSAR
23. Col. Thomas Knowlton Liberty Tree, Ashford, 27 June 2026, CTSSAR, Scouting America Connecticut Rivers Council

Roger Sherman Branch Participates in America 250 Events Surrounding the 4th of July 2026, Public Readings of Declaration of Independence

By Robert L. Clark, Jr., 2nd Vice President, CTSSAR, & President, Roger Sherman Branch No. 5

8 JULY 2026 — FAIRFIELD COUNTY. Although a heatwave descended upon much of the United States on Independence Day, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of Compatriots in Fairfield County, who participated in various events with their patriotic spirits as high as the thermometer! On 8 Jul 2026, Sherman Branch 5 President Robert Clark participated in the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Westport Library in the Town of Westport. Also sharing in this same reading was Kelle Ruden, Regent of the Drum Hill Chapter, Wilton, of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR). Kelle was dressed for the historical occasion in colonial-era regalia. While the Declaration was signed in July 1776, it took several days for the news to travel through the colonies; 8 Jul 1776 marks the historic date when people of the original 13 Colonies finally received word and held the first public celebrations of independence. Several hundred similar readings were held at the same time, relative to their specific time zone, across the nation as part of the national Sharing the Spirit of America initiative.



Compatriot Robert Clark and Kelly Ruden, Drum Hill Chapter, Wilton, CTDAR



At the podium is Christy Klouman, Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, Fairfield, CTDAR

On 4 July 2026, Sherman Branch 5 President Robert Clark attended the 133rd annual Independence Day reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Town Green in Fairfield, Connecticut. This annual event was hosted by the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, Fairfield, of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR), and a local American Legion Post in Fairfield. Speaking at this event was Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter Regent Christy Klouman, and this DAR chapter is resident at the historic Old Academy schoolhouse, which adjoins the Fairfield Town Green.

Just a few days after all the 4th of July activity, Sherman Branch 5 Chaplain and Vice President Edd Eckert gave a presentation at the New Fairfield Senior Center in northern Fairfield County, entitled *"The Sally: The Exciting Adventures of a CT Merchant Sloop During the American Revolution."* If you've missed this presentation at our annual meeting this year, you missed Edd's now classic, deeply researched historical presentation style. Honestly, if you wished you had taken a history course from an Ivy League college professor, make sure that you attend one of Edd's future lectures.



Compatriot Edd Eckert presenting at the New Fairfield Senior Center

Wadsworth Branch Marches in Simsbury Independence Day Parade, Delivers Declaration of Independence Replica to Town of Glastonbury

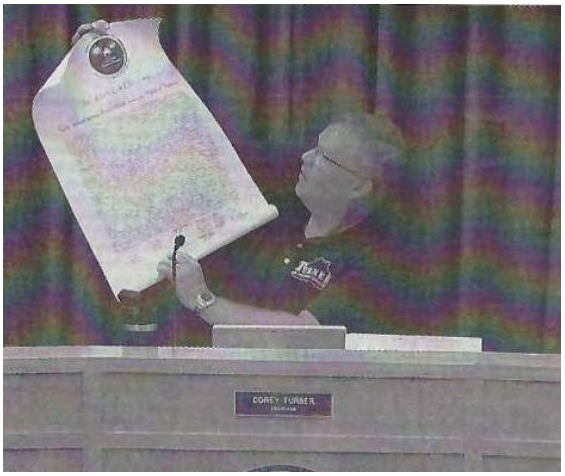
By Richard W. Kendall, President, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7

11 JULY 2026 — SIMSBURY. As the first patriotic organization to march in this parade, Wadsworth Branch 7 marched in the Simsbury-Farmington Valley 250th Parade and Celebration; this was sponsored by the Simsbury 250th Committee and the Simsbury Historical Society and held a week after Independence Day. In an event that was described as "a lot of fun," and the Connecticut Line Color Guard marched in front of the parade and members of Wadsworth Branch 7 were flag bearers. This procession was behind the police and town officials, and in front of the horse guard. Members in uniform with muskets marched in front of those dressed in SAR business attire. This parade did not include a musket salute. **Thank You!** *The board of managers for Wadsworth Branch 7 extends their heartfelt appreciation to all the branch men who participated in the America 250 events this year; we know it was a lot to ask of you.*



Members of Wadsworth Branch 7 at the Simsbury Independence Day Parade

14 JULY 2026 — GLASTONBURY. Wadsworth Branch 7 Compatriot Gary W. Berner presented a commemorative replica of the Declaration of Independence to the Town of Glastonbury. Accepting the replica on behalf of the town, Council Chairman Corey Turner conducted a reading of the Declaration at their Town Council meeting. As part of the America 250 celebration's Sharing of the Spirit of America initiative, the presentation and independent reading of the Declaration in Glastonbury was one of many similar events related to the CTSSAR's program to contact the 169 towns and cities of Connecticut, with the gift of a commemorative replica, and to encourage the reading of the Declaration on or about 8 July 2026. While the Declaration was signed in July 1776, it took several days for the news to travel through the colonies; 8 Jul 1776 marks the historic date when people of the original 13 Colonies finally received word and held the first public celebrations of independence.



Council Chairman Corey Turner showing off the commemorative edition of the Declaration received by the Town of Glastonbury. Image Source: The Glastonbury Citizen, Page 5, 23 July 2026.

Future Branch Events. To give all branch compatriots a well-deserved rest after the America 250 celebrations, and to release members for participation in the Avon Liberty Tree dedication that day, the planned quarterly branch meeting of 9 August 2026 was cancelled. We will plan for a Fall meeting in Farmington, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 3 October 2026. A special grave marking ceremony is scheduled for 7 Nov 2026 on Veterans Day at the *Memento Mori Cemetery* in Farmington, Hartford County, Connecticut. Contact Rich Kendall if you will be there and for more information.

Humphreys Branch Conducts Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony, Joins with Wadsworth Branch later to March in Parade

By Michael A. Krenesky, Vice President, General David Humphreys Branch No. 1

11 JULY 2026 — BEACON FALLS & SIMSBURY. Compatriots of the CTSSAR continued in support of America 250 celebrations a week after the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. At 10:00 AM Humphreys Branch 1 conducted a Grave Marking Ceremony for five Revolutionary War Patriots at the Pinesbridge Cemetery in Beacon Falls. The program and ceremony was led by compatriot Michael Krensky, CTSSAR, and local representatives of the American Legion Schaeffer-Fischer Post No. 25 led the invocation and benediction. Members of the Connecticut Line, led by Col. David J. Perkins, formed the color guard and provided three-volley musket salute in honor of the patriots. Dignitaries at the ceremony included Gerard F. Smith, First Selectman of the Town of Beacon Falls; Connecticut State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria of the 105th District; and Connecticut State Senator Jorge Cabrera of the 17th District. Patriots honored with the ceremony, to include a grave marker and American Flag, included:

- **Private Nathaniel Johnson (1759-1845)**. 2nd Connecticut Militia Regiment. Battle of Long Island/ Brooklyn and New Haven Alarm.
- **Private Joseph Lines (1756-1804)**. 17th Continental Army Regiment. Siege of Boston, Battle of Long Island/Brooklyn and Battle of White Plains.
- **Private Moses Riggs (1760-1838)**. 6th Regiment of the Connecticut Line. Sag Harbor Expedition and perhaps other raids along the Long Island Sound coastline. Regiment represented at Battle of Stony Point.
- **Private Bowers Washborn/Washburn (1745-1817)**. Town of Derby Militia of Connecticut. Marched to the Lexington Alarm during the Siege of Boston.
- **Private Moses Wheeler (1750-1822)**. 4th Connecticut Militia Regiment. Saratoga Campaign. Oath of Fidelity and Patriotic Service.



Tombstone of Pvt. Nathaniel Johnson (1759-1845)


Tombstone of Pvt. Bowers Washburn (1745-1817)


At the podium, Connecticut State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria

Shifting to the Town of Simsbury, at 12:00 noon members of the Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7 and others from the Beacon Falls grave marking marched in a parade as part of the Simsbury-Farmington Valley 250th Parade and Celebration; this was sponsored by the Simsbury 250th Committee and the Simsbury Historical Society. The Connecticut Line Color Guard marched in front of the parade and members of Wadsworth Branch 7 were flag bearers. This procession was behind the police and town officials, and in front of the horse guard. Members in uniform with muskets marched in front of those dressed in SAR business attire. This parade did not include a musket salute.

136th SAR National Congress Recognizes CTSSAR With 10 Awards

By Col. David J. Perkins, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, CTSSAR

13 JULY 2026 — GREENSBORO, NC. During the 136th SAR Congress Awards Ceremonies in Greensboro, North Carolina, 10-16 July 2026, CTSSAR was recognized with 10 different awards, with some receiving multiples of the same award. ***Congratulations to all our winners!***

- **CTSSAR — President General's Activities Award.** 3rd Place for 2025-2026. Presented to the State Society, based on size, which shows evidence of the most complete practice of implementing SAR programs and resolutions.

- **CTSSAR — Admiral William R. Furlong Memorial Award.** Certificate and Star for Streamer presented to the State Societies which have fulfilled the qualifications of NSSAR Flag Certificate presentations for 2025-2026.

- **CTSSAR — Genealogist General's Award with Streamer.** Presented to the State Societies with the lowest percentage of Pended applications for 2025-2026.

- **Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6 — President General's Education Outreach Streamer.** Presented to the compatriots of a chapter who complete a certain number of new Historical Presentations or who present an existing presentation in a new venue or audience.

- **David J. Perkins — Gold Roger Sherman Medal; Oak Leaf Cluster** in lieu of fifth award. In recognition of Outstanding Service to the SAR Youth Programs for 2025-2026.

- **David J. Perkins — Certificate of Distinguished Service.** Presented in recognition of exemplary service in his contributions to the Eagle Scout Committee for 2025-2026.

- **David J. Perkins — Liberty Medal; Two Oak Leaf Clusters** in lieu of second and third awards. Presented to those compatriots for outstanding services in sponsorship of 20 additional new members for 2025-2026. One OLC per 10 new members.

- **Ethan A. Stewart, Sr. — Silver Liberty Medal; Oak Leaf Cluster** in lieu of second award. Presented to those compatriots for outstanding services who have over time, have passed the sponsorship number of 100 or more new compatriots in the SAR.

- **Ethan A. Stewart, Sr. — Liberty Medal; Three Oak Leaf Clusters** in lieu of second, third and fourth awards. Presented to those compatriot for outstanding services in the sponsorship of 30 additional new members for 2025-2026. One OLC per 10 new members.

- **CTSSAR — Jennings H. Flathers Award.** For "Honor Roll and Historical Record of the 135th National Congress," Kurt Potter, Editor. Presented to the State Society with fewer than 500 members with the best news publication for 2025-2026. Includes a $200 cash award.

CTSSAR Receives 4 Certificates of Appreciation and Streamers for Youth Program Nominations at 136th SAR Congress

By Col. David J. Perkins, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, CTSSAR

13 JULY 2026 — GREENSBORO, NC. During the 136th SAR Congress Awards Ceremonies in Greensboro, North Carolina, 10-16 July 2026, CTSSAR was recognized with four Youth Awards Certificates of Appreciation. The SAR Education Outreach Program sponsors youth awards to promote American history and achievement. Competitions begin at local chapters and advance to state and national levels, offering cash prizes, certificates, and medals to youth nominees. CTSSAR was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and Streamer for supporting and submitting a candidate in each of the following contests, 2025-2026.

- **SAR Elementary School Poster Contest**. *Our CTSSAR nominee placed 3rd in the National contest judging at Congress and the winner will receive a check for $100.* Contest recognizes 3rd to 5th graders for posters based upon portrayal of the patriotic theme, originality, evidence of research, neatness, artistic merit, and creativity. Winning posters from all categories are displayed at the National SAR Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.

- **George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest.** Contest recognizes students in the 9th to 12th grades for original research and essays on an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.

- **Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest.** A multi-tier competition that honors exceptional high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students who show high leadership, military bearing, and scholastic excellence.

- **SAR Youth Video Contest.** Contest recognizes individual or groups of students in the 6th to 12th grades for a 3-to-5-minute video that chronicles a story about the American Revolution, which can include a person, battle, document, or event during the American struggle for independence and do it in video form.



135th SAR Congress Medal — *$18.00* !!!

Unique Historical Art

Commissioned by CTSSAR in 2023, 135th SAR Congress Medal celebrates our hosting of this 2025 event here in Connecticut. It was designed in cooperation with The Mohegan Tribe, which is a federally recognized Native American sovereign nation based in Uncasville, Connecticut. Worn proudly during the Congress, all SAR members are eligible to wear this distinctive and official medal with their other medals. Many members have purchased extra medal sets as a collectors' item or as gifts to their grandchildren. The set comes with two medals: a regular size and a "mini" medal for wear at black tie events. PRICE: $18.00 plus shipping. Don't Wait! Contact: David J. Perkins. Email: dperkinssr8@gmail.com

Wadsworth Branch Dedicates CTSSAR's 19th Liberty Tree in Avon, Unveils Plaque to Honor Northington's Revolutionary War Soldiers

By Richard W. Kendall, President, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7

9 AUGUST 2026 — AVON. In a ceremony held at Sperry Park on 60 Simsbury Rd, Route 10, in Avon, Wadsworth Branch 7 dedicated CTSSAR's 19th Liberty Tree. The event included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to honor the Revolutionary War patriots of the Town of Northington in Hartford County, which was incorporated as the Town of Avon in 1830. Wadsworth Branch 7 played a large role in obtaining and partially funding this commemorative plaque.

During the 45-minute ceremony, Wadsworth Branch 7 shared in the Posting of the Colors with Avon's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3272 and Avon's American Legion Post 201. Later, Richard W. Kendall unveiled the commemorative plaque and offered a few remarks at the end of the program. The dedication was well attended by branch wives and significant others. A featured segment of the program included a special appearance by Connecticut Revolutionary War General Israel Putnam (1718-1790), portrayed by his 5th great-grandson descendant, and Town of Avon resident, Houston Putnam Lowry. The printed program quoted Gen. Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1838) on his historical final visit to the United States in 1825, "The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals."



The plaque, located at the Liberty Tree, was written and designed by members of the CTSAR and Avon's America 250 Coordinating Committee

Afterwards, Avon's America 250 Coordinating Committee invited the branch to a barbecue cookout, that was within walking distance from the Liberty Tree, which included a traditional American menu of hot dogs, hamburgers and vegetarian fare; the branch was tasked to bring a salad, side or dessert for sharing. Soft drinks, water, and a few cases of Samuel Adams Boston Lager (and the non-alcoholic alternative) were on hand for a toast to the brewer and Patriot credited for having that first meeting under the Elm Tree in Boston that helped start the Revolution. A great time was had by all!

The planning for this event occurred over several months and the Princeton Elm Liberty Tree was planted before the 9 August 2026 dedication. This event was driven in partnership with Avon's America 250 Coordinating Committee—whose motto is "Celebration, Reflection, and Civic Pride."—with Norm Sondheimer as Chair, who is also a member of the Avon Historical Society, whose president is Terri Wilson. The Avon committee also includes Erin Barthel, Avon Town Council; Anne Fitzgerald, member of the Abigail Phelps Chapter, Simsbury, of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) and Avon Historical Society; and Susan O'Connell, member of the Avon Historical Society.

Distinguished Compatriot Spotlight — Col. Gary Steven Pitcock

By Col. Gary Steven Pitcock, Historian, CTSSAR



Col. Gary Steven Pitcock

Gary Steven Pitcock was born on 28 March 1953 in the City of Glasgow, Commonwealth of Kentucky. He attended Tompkinsville High School and in 1971 he received the Congressman Dr. Tim Lee Carter Math Award for the highest math scores throughout school. Kentucky Congressman Carter offered Gary an appointment to a United States Military Academy of his choice, but he declined the offer, which bewildered Gary's father, who was a Korean War veteran and commander of the local National Guard unit. Gary later regretted his decision for many years. He attended Western Kentucky University and graduated from Lindsey Wilson University with a business degree. Through a Kentucky state economic program in 1977, Gary was chosen as a paid student to attend the Y-12 National Security Complex School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee studying non-destructive testing. The historic Oak Ridge complex was part of the World War II Manhattan Project that enriched uranium for the first atomic bombs. Here, Gary was one of two students with straight A's who were hired before graduation by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). He worked for TVA in Spring City, Tennessee, and later moved to Hutchinson Island, Florida working for Florida Power & Light (FPL). Afterwards he also worked for both Michigan Consumers Energy and Boston Edison.

In 1986, Gary changed careers and worked as a private consultant for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. He was hired by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development in 2006 and later switched to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, where he retired in 2018 as a Senior Transportation Engineer.

Gary was commissioned a *Kentucky Colonel—the highest title of honor bestowed by the Governor of Kentucky*—for his historical and genealogical research in South-Central Kentucky; Gary received his colonelcy from former Governor Ernie Fletcher. For over 22 years, Gary has been a commissioner on the South Windsor, Connecticut Historical Commission. He is one of two South Windsor representatives on the Greater Hartford Transit District Board of Directors. Pitcock also serves on the Clapp House Restoration Board of Directors in South Windsor. He was the main speaker at South Windsor's 150th Anniversary Founders Day Celebration, also developing historical exhibits in both the South Windsor Town Hall and the Public Library—as well as for the 175th anniversary. He has served on the South Windsor Planning and Zoning Board, the Board of Directors for the Wood Memorial Library and Museum, and many other organizations. Gary volunteers as an usher at Hartford Stage; sells antique garden items at a market; and is an administrator of an online garden blog.

One morning while driving to work, Gary remembered when as a young boy that his grandmother, who was an elementary school teacher, informed him that her great-grandfather had been a Revolutionary War solider. When he discovered that none of his relatives knew anything about this patriotic ancestor, he decided to research it. This culminated in Gary's membership in the Connecticut Society of the Sons

Gary Steven Pitcock (*Continued…*)

of the American Revolution (CTSSAR) under his 4th great-grandfather, Private Matthew Kidwell (1752-1842). Pvt. Kidwell served in Lt.Col. Samuel Hanson's Charles County Militia Regiment of Maryland, and he is honored with a memorial tombstone at Old Mulkey Meeting House in Monroe County, Kentucky—which is possibly the oldest Church west of the Appalachian Mountains. Gary has recognized another SAR patriot-ancestor, Virginia Militiaman and Private Ephraim Dicken (1761-1839), who is also honored with a memorial tombstone at the same cemetery. Gary has identified numerous other Revolutionary War patriot-ancestors and promises that he will soon work to have them recognized with SAR supplemental membership applications.

Elected over 26 years go, Gary continues to serve as the beloved State Historian of CTSSAR. In recognition of long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service, in 2025 Gary was awarded the *Patriot Medal*, which is *the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a SAR State Society.* Over the years, Gary served in other CTSSAR roles, to include President of the General Israel Putnam Branch No. 4. As part of the America 250 celebrations, Gary recently championed a South Windsor Historical Society lawn chair event in his yard that was open to the public. There, he gave a historical presentation about the rear of his house, which was built in 1798 by Revolutionary War soldier Private Samuel Elmer, Jr. (1755-1834). Pvt. Elmer served in five campaigns during the war and his son Harvey was the leader to separate the Town of South Windsor from East Windsor, which was incorporated in 1845. Historical manuscripts found in Gary's house attic were published into a book by the South Windsor Historical Society in 1976 as the Town's contribution to America's 200th Bicentennial.

Challenge Coins of SAR Connecticut: America 250 Limited Series — *$10.00*

Put Patriotism in Your Pocket. CTSSAR commissioned a limited series of Challenge Coins with one or more released each year leading up to the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026. A perfect gift or commemorative collectable. Dating back to the Roman Empire when they were presented to legionnaires for valor, they are now given as a token of appreciation, friendship, or distinction—sometimes presented as part of a "secret handshake." Different designs shown on the backs (not seen here). Others were commissioned and not shown here. *Pick them up at a meeting to avoid postage costs!*



Governor Jonathan Trumbull War Office 1776-1784 (2018)



Connecticut Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (2020)



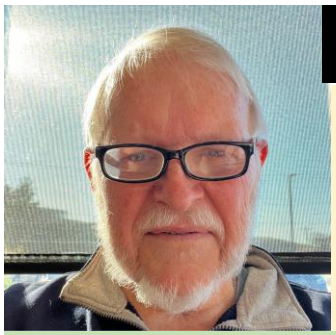
Lucius P. Deming First SAR President General (2023)



Invasion of New Haven July 5, 1779 (2019)

$10.00 each. Contact David H. Packard.
Email: davidpackard633@gmail.com

$10.00 each. Contact Ethan A. Stewart, Sr.
Email: bstew220@optonline.net



The Ripple Effect of America 250 Celebrations

By Richard W. Kendall, Chaplain and Assistant Treasurer, CTSSAR

Our patriotic endeavors have far-reaching impact on others here in Connecticut and throughout the United States. As leaders in the lineage-based patriotic community, our faith-based perspectives continue to be important in connecting the spiritual values of our patriotic ancestors to how we live our lives today.

Dear Compatriots: As a member of the Holy Ghost Orthodox Church of Bridgeport, I thought you would be interested to know that my speech, "*Roger Sherman: Connecticut's Greatest Founding Father*," given at the 4 July 2026 Grove Street Cemetery ceremony in New Haven, was republished in my church's diocesan newsletter that reaches all of New England and beyond. The speech was well received. I'm proud that the Orthodox Church in America has recognized the magnitude of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and encouraged our parishes throughout the country to express patriotic devotion to our country. In fact, the head spiritual leader of our church has a distinguished lineage to the Revolutionary War and wishes to join SAR. I was honored to have the opportunity to be a part of our annual ceremony this year. Contact me for a copy of the speech!

In Our Memory

	Deceased	
Mr. Laurence J. Hansen	28 February 2026	Wolcott 10
Mr. Todd W. Goodhue	12 April 2026	Hale 6
Mr. Arthur C. Hanke	8 July 2026	Wolcott 10
Mr. Steven B. Arnold	3 August 2026	Hale 6

New Members 2026

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Mr. Forrest L. Anderson
Mr. William P. Atwater, III
Mr. William P. Atwater, IV
Mr. Jonathan M. Breen
Mr. Trevor R. Chillson
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Mr. Oliver R. Sonderman
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Sons of the American Revolution

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