The Patriot Newsletter

Connecticut Society

Sons of the American Revolution

November 2026, Biannual Newsletter

Robust Biannual All-Member CTSSAR Meeting Features Presentation by Iraqi-War Notable and Congratulates Recipients of SAR America 250th Anniversary Medal

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

14 NOVEMBER 2026 — BERLIN. Celebrating their first state meeting after the 250th Anniversary of United States of America, CTSSAR members gathered at their familiar Casa Mia at the Hawthorne restaurant to conduct business, enjoy luncheon, and hear a presentation from an American hero. The featured presenter at the meeting was Colonel Armen Beermann, USAF (Ret.), who is the recipient of the 2025 NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal for his journey to America and his involvement in the 2003 capture of then-Iraqi President and fugitive Saddam Hussein, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The business portion of the meeting included routine approval of CTSSAR Constitution and Bylaw changes, recognition of new CTSSAR members, and the report from the Historic Sites and Celebrations—America 250 Committee. The cornerstone of this meeting was the presentation of individual and group awards to CTSSAR, which included the presentation of the SAR University's Chapter President Training Certificate to compatriot Timothy E. Burke, now certified as a chapter officer after completing the ambitious training course of 22 online modules. Real Property Steward David H. Packard presented a record 9 Silver Henry Knox Achievement Medals to dedicated Real Property docents. As modest indicator of the exemplary participation of state compatriots in the run-up to the 250th Anniversary of the United States, CTSSAR presented a record number of 21 individual 250th Anniversary Recognition Awards—also called the America 250th Anniversary Medal—to 18 CTSSAR members, 2 nonmembers, and 1 CTDAR member. Capping off the awards segment of the meeting was the formal presentation of recognitions received by CTSSAR during this past summer's 136th SAR National Congress in Greensboro, North Carolina. During that Congress, CTSSAR received 4 state awards, 1 chapter award, 5 individual awards, and 4 certificates of appreciation for national youth program nominations by CTSSAR. Congratulations to all of our award recipients; "Well Done!"



CTSSAR Secretary David Perkins, Col. Armen Beermann, USAF (Ret.), and CTSSAR President Mark Sheldon. After his featured presentation, Col. Beermann was the lucky recipient of a bottle of David Perkins' famed maple syrup.

Knox & America 250 Medals	P. 2	"Preston Pipeline" Features SAR	P. 11	Constitution Day Liberty Tree	P. 18
136th Congress Recognitions	3	Annual Fort Griswold Event	12	Wadsworth's Cemetery Roll Call	19
Racetrack Musket Volley	4	Groton 250th Bench Dedication	13	SAR History Session CTSSAR	19
Wreaths Across America WAA	5	Sherman Branch Updates	14	Putnam Branch Updates	20
"Best Medicine" TV Episode	6	Wolcott Branch Updates	15	Todd L. Gerlander Biography	21-23
3-Cemetery Grave Markings	7-8	Mead & CTSSAR Markings	16	In Our Memory CTSSAR	23
Trumbull Branch Activities	9	Ellington History Day CTSSAR	17	New Members CTSSAR	23
Nathan Hale Events & Awards	10-11	Cregeau's Trumbull Speech	17	Branch/State Officers CTSSAR	24

Robust Biannual All-Member CTSSAR Meeting (*Continued…*)

Silver Henry Knox Achievement Medal

Awarded to CTSSAR members to recognize specific outstanding contributions, achievements, or accomplishments.

*Conferred to **Real Property Docents** by CTSSAR. Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of second award designated as "OLC."*

- Mark Bierbaum
- Michael F. Brothers—OLC
- John R. Cooke
- Todd L. Gerlander—OLC
- David A. Jones—OLC
- Quinn M. Kozak—OLC
- Marucs S. Larkin—OLC
- David H. Packard—OLC
- Robert W. Rivard—OLC

250th Anniversary Recognition Award

Also known as the "America 250th Anniversary Medal," CTSSAR members and others are eligible for award based on points accumulated from planning, execution, and attendance at America 250 events.

GOLD 250th Anniversary Recognition Award

A NSSAR award conferred after accumulation of 150-point credits.

- Mark Bierbaum
- Michael F. Brothers
- Timothy E. Burke
- Robert B. Carrara
- Robert L. Clark, Jr.
- John R. Cooke
- Dan E. Dudley
- Richard W. Kendall
- William H. Spring
- Stephen Z. Taylor

SILVER 250th Anniversary Recognition Award

A CTSSAR award conferred after accumulation of 60-point credits.

- Wayne T. Bickley
- Edd S. Eckert
- Jonathan W. King
- Frederick R. Lorthioir
- Frank J. McClintock
- Patricia Perkins
- Fred K. Potter
- Martin F. Spring
- Barbara Stewart—CTDAR
- Timothy C.R. Wilkins
- Russell Whittaker



Happy recipients of the SAR America 250th Anniversary Medal. Presented by Todd Gerlander and Mark Sheldon to Edd Eckert (Silver), Frederick Lorthioir (Silver), Robert Clark (Gold), Patricia Perkins (Silver), Barbara Stewart (Silver).



Reacting to friendly jeering from the audience, CTSSAR Registrar Ethan Stewart and CTSSAR President Mark Sheldon accept the NSSAR Genealogist General's Award with 2025-26 Streamer. Awarded to state societies with lowest percentage of Pended SAR Applications.

Robust Biannual All-Member CTSSAR Meeting (*Continued…*)

Recognitions for CTSSAR at 136th SAR National Congress in Greensboro, North Carolina

Recognizing the CTSSAR State Society

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

Recognizing a Branch of the CTSSAR

- **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.

Recognizing Individuals of the CTSSAR

- **David J. Perkins — Gold Roger Sherman Medal; Oak Leaf Cluster** in lieu of second 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.

Certificates of Appreciation — National Youth Program Nominations by CTSSAR

- **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.
- **George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest.** Contest recognizes students in the 9th to 12th grades for original research and essays on the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.
- **Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest.** Competition honors exceptional high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students.
- **SAR Youth Video Contest.** Contest recognizes individual or groups of students in the 6th to 12th grades for a 3-to-5-minute video about the American Revolution.

Connecticut Line Color Guard Musket Volley Starts Race at Lime Rock Park

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

5 SEPTEMBER 2026 — LAKEVILLE. "Start your engines!" With more than 10,000 guests in attendance on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, the Connecticut Line presented the colors and fired a one-volley musket salute to start racing for the day at historic Lime Rock Park. This was part of the racetrack's Historic Festival 44, which included a variety of races and rallying events for vintage automobile enthusiasts. This "terrific event" was arranged by compatriot Timothy Hill, also 1st Vice President, CTSSAR, whose Wolcott branch color guard bolstered the combined Connecticut Line, under the command of Col. David Perkins, with CTSSAR President Mark Sheldon as part of the color guard.

As a gesture of appreciation for kicking off the racing, *Lime Rock Park donated $1,000 to the Connecticut Line.* In addition to their ceremonial duties, the Connecticut Line engaged in a meet and greet with attendees, and state and local dignitaries, to include Connecticut's senior US Senator Richard Blumenthal. Check-out Facebook for additional pictures and videos for this special day!

Lime Rock Park is a renowned road racing track located in Lakeville, Litchfield County, Connecticut. They hosts a variety of seasonal racing events on their 1.5-mile circuit and proving ground (and a .52-mile track), to include vintage or "classic" automobiles, trucks, go-karts and traditional NASCAR-related competitions. They are also the home of the Lime Rock Drivers Club. See their website for family-friendly events: https://limerock.com/



Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch Color Guard, bolstered by the Connecticut Line, deliver a musket volley to start the race.



Picture courtesy of Lime Rock Park — https://limerock.com/



Maj. Timothy S. Hill (right), with Members of the Connecticut Line Color Guard.



Connecticut US Senator Richard Blumenthal (center); Mark W. Sheldon, Sr., President, CTSSAR (left); and Lt.Col. By Marcus S. Larkin, Connecticut Line (right).

Wreaths Across America on Saturday, 19 Dec 2026 – Plan NOW to be There

By Mark W. Sheldon, Sr., President, CTSSAR; Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard



19 DECEMBER 2026 — CONNECTICUT. Various individual members, branches, and color guard detachments of CTSSAR will be out in force to support the dozens of Connecticut ceremonies related to the annual National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day on Saturday, 19 Dec 2026. Quickly becoming a key annual tradition, CTSSAR leadership estimates that this year's event will include participation by MORE members than in any other previous year. At least three of these annual tributes will be supported by detachments of the CT Line Color Guard, to honor the Revolutionary War veterans with 3-volley musket salutes. The mission of WAA is the placement of thousands of ceremonial wreaths at veteran's graves in hundreds of cemeteries across the United States in one day; all branches of the US Armed Forces and all wars are honored. Find a location near YOU and participate—or start your own annual tradition: *Saturday, 19 Dec 2026, starting at Noon, but come earlier. Coordinate with a contact below! Come prepared for standing in the cold (sometimes rain) with gloves, scarfs, etc.*

- **Batnam (Litchfield), CT**. CTSSAR will support the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, CTDAR, who will sponsor and conduct the WAA ceremony. Location: All Wars Memorial is in the front of Bantam Cemetery, located on Rte. 202 in the Bantam section of Litchfield, next to Our Lady of Grace Church (which is 715 Bantam Road / Rte. 202). *CTSSAR Contact:* Timothy S. Hill, Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10.
- **Lebanon, CT**. CTSSAR will be joining the Lebanon Town Militia and the American Legion at the Lebanon Town Hall. Immediately following that event we will proceed to the Trumbull Cemetery for another wreath laying ceremony and musket salute. *CTSSAR Contact:* Todd L. Gerlander, Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13.
- **Milford, CT.** CTSSAR will once again support the Freelove Baldwin Stow Chapter, CTDAR, with volunteers and a detachment of the CT Line Color Guard. Location: King's Highway Cemetery Veteran's Circle, 271 Cherry Street, Milford, CT. *CTSSAR Contact:* Ethan A. Stewart, Sr., General David Humphreys Branch No. 1.
- **Darien, CT.** Roger Sherman Branch 5 will hold a branch meeting starting at 10:00 AM at the Darien Library, 1441 Post Road, Darien, CT. At about 11:30 AM the members will walk across the street to the Spring Grove Cemetery to support the WAA. *CTSSAR Contact:* Robert L. Clark, Jr., Roger Sherman Branch No. 5.
- **Beacon Falls, CT**. Location: Pinesbridge Cemetery. North on Route 8 to Exit 21. Turn left. First left is cemetery on Old Turnpike Rd. Route 8 South to Exit 21. Right on Main St. 3/4 mile, through 3 traffic lights. Left onto Old Turnpike Rd. Cemetery on left. Parking in cemetery and on road. *CTSSAR Contact:* Michael A. Krenesky, General David Humphreys Branch No. 1.
- **Greenwich, CT**. *CTSSAR Contact:* David C. Wold, Captain Matthew Mead Branch No. 11. Various wreath layings planned and possible. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument (Civil War) at Maple & Putnam Ave.; the WW I, WW II, Korean War & Vietnam War Memorial at 290 Greenwich Ave.; and the Old Byram Burial Ground at Byram Shore Rd., for 2 Revolutionary War veterans with the Horseneck Chapter, Greenwich, DAR. Others include wreath layings at the Old Peck Family Graveyard; the Old Byram School Memorial Tree Grove that honors WW II, Korean War & Vietnam War veterans; and MANY others.

CTSSAR Compatriots are Featured Extras in Episode of the Popular Fox TV Series "Best Medicine"

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

10 NOVEMBER 2026 — FOX TELEVISION. Compatriot Michael Krenesky and other nationwide SAR reenactors were featured extras used in the filming of a Fox Television episode of *"Best Medicine,"* described as a medical comedy drama television series. If you missed the episode that premiered on 10 Nov 2026 at 8:00 PM, no need to worry, as it is available via a few different online platforms for streaming. In episode 7 of season 2, entitled "Love is a Battlefield," the plot revolves around phenomena experienced by the town citizens during a Revolutionary War reenactment, who start displaying tremors and odder than usual behavior. Other SAR state societies were represented at this filming, to include New Jersey and Indiana. The series plot involves main character Dr. Martin Best, who moves from a prestigious hospital position in Boston to a private practice in a small fishing village in Maine. In its first season, "Best Medicine" was Fox's most-watched series of the 2025-26 TV season, outperforming 32 other shows.

"Best Medicine":
https://www.fox.com/detail/series/SER262467MJOW/best-medicine



SAR Compatriots James Sanford, West Fields Chapter, NJSSAR; David Rousculp, Anthony Halberstadt Chapter, INSSAR; and Michael Krenesky, Gen. David Humphreys Branch No. 1, CTSSAR. On location somewhere in New York at the filming of the TV series in Sep 2026.

Guard Against Hypertension — NSSAR Surgeon General Health Minute

By Matthew S. Bowdish MD, NSSAR Surgeon General 2026-2027

26 AUGUST 2026 — CALIFORNIA. "Give Me Liberty...And Lower Blood Pressure." *Hypertension* (aka High Blood Pressure) is a silent and deadly condition that affects 60% of older adults and is a top contributor to heart attacks, strokes, and kidney damage in men ages 50 to 80 years old. It often runs in families—if your parents had it, you likely carry an elevated risk. Diagnosis is simple: regular blood pressure readings at home or in your doctor's office. Annual screenings are recommended for all men in this age group. Treatment starts with lifestyle (i.e., diet, exercise, salt reduction) and can include medications like ACE inhibitors or diuretics. Left unchecked, hypertension quietly damages your arteries. Contact your personal physician today for blood pressure evaluation and personalized management strategy. Protecting your heart today means more active years with your family in the future.



Matthew S. Bowdish MD California SAR.

Amazing and Collaborative One-Day Grave Marking Program by CTSSAR, CTDAR and Stratford Historical Society Honors 15 Patriots in 3 Cemeteries

By Ethan A. Stewart, Sr., Registrar, CTSSAR

17 OCTOBER 2026 — WILTON & STRATFORD. On display to commemorate and celebrate America's 250th anniversary, the dynamic and mutually supportive ecosystem of Connecticut patriotic and historical societies completed a logistically ambitious program of 15 patriot grave marking ceremonies spread across 3 different cemeteries. These American Revolution patriots were honored in cemeteries in both Wilton and Stratford, Connecticut. The busy day of ceremonies began at Hillside Cemetery and Arboretum in Wilton at 11:00 AM, where the graves of 5 Revolutionary War patriots were marked. This ceremony was jointly coordinated and hosted by members of the Drum Hill Chapter, Wilton, CTDAR and the Hillside Cemetery and Arboretum; Roger Sherman Branch No. 5, CTSSAR was a partner in this event, with President Robert L. Clark, Jr. and others in attendance. The James B. Whipple American Legion Post 86, Wilton, provided a color guard for the ceremony. Additional ceremony participants included Town of Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher; CTSSAR State President Mark W. Sheldon, Sr.; and CTDAR State Regent Jolene R. Mullen.



Members of CTDAR, CTSSAR and the Stratford Historical Society (SHS) stand together at Hillside Cemetery in Wilton, Connecticut. Photograph by Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR.

Next, traveling 25 miles away to the Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery in Stratford, a 1:00 PM ceremony marked the gravesites of another 5 Revolutionary War patriots. The day's ceremonies concluded in Stratford at the nearby Old Congregational Burying Ground, one of the top 10 oldest cemeteries in Connecticut, where the graves of 5 more Revolutionary War patriots were marked. The 5 iron grave markers for this ceremony were donated by General David Humphreys Branch No. 1, CTSSAR. These two Stratford grave markings for CTSSAR were conducted in partnership with the Stratford Historical Society (SHS), Ethan A. Stewart, Sr., President. At the conclusion of each ceremony the Connecticut Line, the living history and color guard unit of the Connecticut SAR, fired a 3-volley musket salute, followed by the sounding of Taps, performed by commander Col. David J. Perkins. In addition to interested members of the general public, all three patriot grave marking ceremonies were…

Grave Marking Program, 15 Patriots in 3 Cemeteries (*Continued…*) …well attended at varying degrees by members of Roger Sherman Branch No. 5 and General David Humphreys Branch No. 1, CTSSAR; members of many chapters of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR); and members of the Stratford Historical Society (SHS).



Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery, Stratford, Connecticut. Photograph by Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR.



Old Congregational Burying Ground, Stratford, Connecticut. Photograph by Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR.

Hillside Cemetery
- Maj. Samuel Comstock
- Capt. Daniel Hurlbutt
- Pvt. Summers Middlebrook
- Pvt. Moses Gregory
- Dea. Daniel Gregory

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery
- Col. Aaron Benjamin
- Pvt. Abijah Beardslee
- Pvt. Curtiss Beardslee
- Pvt. Jeremiah Curtiss
- Pvt. John Fairchild

Old Congregational Burying Ground
- Col. Samuel Whiting, Jr.
- Capt. Ebenezer Coe, Jr.
- Lieut. Stephen Wells
- Pvt. Samuel Southworth
- Rev. Izrakiah Wetmore

Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13 Holds Annual Meeting with CTDAR Namesake, 316th Birthday Ceremony Included—Big Plans for War Office in 2027

By Todd L. Gerlander, Branch Historian, Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13

10 OCTOBER 2026 — LEBANON. CTSSAR held a wreath laying ceremony commemorating the 316th birthday of Connecticut's Revolutionary War "Rebel Governor" Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785), who was born on 12 Oct 1710. This ceremony occurred at his War Office on Saturday, 11:00 AM, at 149 West Town Street, Lebanon, and the Connecticut Line was there to fire a 3-volley musket salute to honor Governor Trumbull. Following this birthday ceremony, the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13, CTSSAR, held a well-attended joint meeting with the Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) at 12:00 PM across the Lebanon Green from the War Office, in the Community Room at the Lebanon Historical Society Visitor's Center and Museum. The meeting included a birthday cake for Governor Trumbull. The aspiration now is that this inaugural meeting will start a new annual tradition between the Lebanon-based CTSSAR branch and the CTDAR chapter, both named in honor of Jonathan Trumbull.



Governor Jonathan Trumbull Chapter of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) stand with Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13 of the CTSSAR. Photograph by Todd L. Gerlander, CTSSAR.

2027 will be a BIG year for the War Office, when the CTSSAR will commemorate the War Office's 300th anniversary (1727-2027). According to tradition, it was circa 1727 that Captain Joseph Trumbull, Sr. (the father of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull) had the Trumbull family store built, that was later used by his son as the War Office. This War Office served as the headquarters of the Connecticut Council of Safety, where 556 of the 1000+ council meetings were held from 1775-1783. Another title for Trumbull during the war was Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Connecticut militia and Connecticut naval forces, and he was the only patriot governor to serve prior to, during, and after the American Revolution.

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. The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations—America 250 Committee will organize a 300th anniversary event at the War Office next year, probably on the War Office's opening day for the 2027 season.

Next year also marks the **250th anniversary of the adoption of the United States Flag** (14 Jun 1777), which is why we celebrate Flag Day annually on June 14th. Jonathan F. Morris, an original member of the Connecticut SAR (CTSSAR #5) and first state registrar, was an early originator of the idea for creating a national Flag Day Holiday in 1861; and some believe he should be recognized as the actual "Father of Flag Day." The Connecticut SAR held its first Flag Day commemoration at the War Office on Monday, 15 Jun 1891, since 14 Jun 1891 that year fell on a Sunday. This event also commemorated the CTSSAR's restoration of the War Office and the transfer of its ownership from Mrs. Bethia Huntington (Mason) Wattles to CTSSAR. The CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations—America 250 Committee will organize a 250th anniversary Flag Day event at the War Office next year on Saturday June 12th and/or Sunday June 13th, 2027.

Connecticut's State Hero Nathan Hale Commemorated 250 Years After his Death with Three Other Patriots at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse

By David H. Packard, Real Property Steward, CTSSAR

19 SEPTEMBER 2026 — EAST HADDAM. The 250th anniversary of the death of Captain Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was commemorated with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse at Nathan Hale Park in East Haddam, Connecticut. Without the benefit of a trial, Hale was hanged as a spy by British Forces in New York City on 22 Sep 1776. Patriot Hale's dedication to our country is enshrined in his immortal words "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." On 1 Oct 1985, by an act of the General Assembly and the efforts of the Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6 of the CTSSAR, Nathan Hale officially became Connecticut's State Hero. Two years ago on 22 Sep 2024, the CTSSAR planted and dedicated its first of 23 Liberty Trees in honor of Captain Nathan Hale at Nathan Hale Park.



Program participants stand vigilant in front of the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, 29 Main St, Route 149, East Haddam, CT 06423.

This day's appropriately robust program honored 3 other distinguished patriots, with either dedications or ceremonial grave markings at the adjacent River View Cemetery, and their lives were intertwined with that of Nathan Hale: MGen. Joseph Spencer (1714-1789) and his wife Hannah; Col. Thomas Knowlton (1740-1776); and Capt. James Green (1728-1809). Ceremonies began promptly at 1:00 PM with compatriot David A. Jones ringing the church bell of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church—13 Times for the 13 American colonies. Compatriot Dayne E. Rugh, President of the Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6 gave a historical talk on the life of Captain Nathan Hale.

Connecticut's 1st State Troubadour Tom Callinan began the program with the singing of the National Anthem; he also composed 3 original songs that were sung during the ceremonies that were inspired by the lives of Captain Nathan Hale, Major General Joseph Spencer, and Captain James Green. The ceremonies concluded with a 3-volley musket salute led by Lieutenant Colonel Marcus S. Larkin of the Connecticut Line, the living history and color guard unit of the Connecticut SAR. Compatriot Timothy E. Burke performed the sounding of Taps.



David H. Packard, chairman and emcee for this America 250 event. Also, a member of the CTSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations—America 250 Committee.

Connecticut SAR ceremonies were also held to dedicate the new headstones for Major General Joseph Spencer and his wife Hannah at Nathan Hale Park, and a SAR patriot grave marking ceremony was held for Captain James Green, at Nathan Hale Park and the adjacent River View Cemetery. Mathilda Burke gave a historical talk on the life of both Major General Joseph Spencer and Captain James Green. Later, on 22 Sep 2026, compatriot David Packard presented Randall Nelson the NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Nelson, a stone carver by trade, replicated the gravestones of Major General Joseph…

Nathan Hale Commemoration (*Continued…*)



Randall Nelson and compatriot David Packard.

Spencer and his wife Hannah. Unable to attend the re-dedication ceremony held on 19 Sep 2026, Mr. Randall was awarded his NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation at his home in Willington, Connecticut on Tuesday, 22 Sep 2026.

CTSSAR thanks everyone who participated in and attended these CTSSAR America 250 ceremonies at Nathan Hale Park. Thanks also to compatriot David H. Packard, compatriot Timothy E. Burke, Christina Burke, and Mathilda Burke for their work organizing this event. A special thank you to our partners for this event: The Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (C.T.D.A.R.); the East Haddam/Moodus Post 3336 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.); and the River View Cemetery Association. See FACEBOOK for more postings: https://www.facebook.com/connecticutsar/

Nathan Hale Award Presented to Cadet at US Coast Guard Academy

By David H. Packard, Real Property Steward, CTSSAR



1/c Cadet Abriana Schmutz and compatriot David Packard.

26 SEPTEMBER 2026 — NEW LONDON. At Leamy Hall Auditorium at the United States Coast Guard Academy, compatriot David Packard presented the Nathan Hale Award for Excellence in Strategic Intelligence to First Class (1/c) Cadet Abriana Schmutz. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements in intelligence-related fields, who have demonstrated exceptional skills and contributions in strategic intelligence, reflecting the legacy of Nathan Hale, a notable patriot and spy during the American Revolutionary War, and later named Connecticut's State Hero.

"Preston Pipeline" Newsletter Features Long Piece on Grave Marking Ceremony

By Fred K. Potter, Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6



Fred K. Potter

26 AUGUST 2026 — PRESTON. Featured in the Fall 2026 issue of "Preston Pipeline," was a robust article that explored the 22 Aug 2026 Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at the historic (New) Poquetanuck Cemetery in the Town of Preston. Written by Fred K. Potter and titled "American Revolution Patriots Remembered at Historic Poquetanuck Cemetery," it chronicles the event with biographies of the honored 8 soldiers and one sailor who were residents of Preston. The ceremony was planned in partnership with the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations—America 250 Committee, the Connecticut Line Color Guard, and the Poquetanuck Cemetery Association. Contact Fred K. Potter for a PDF file of the article: fkpotter@comcast.net

245th Anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights Draws a Large Audience

By Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard; Secretary, CTSSAR

6 SEPTEMBER 2026 — FORT GRISWOLD, GROTON. On a day of perfect weather for a musket volley, the CTSSAR Connecticut Line Color Guard and Living History Unit, and CTSSAR compatriots, participated in various aspects of the 245th Anniversary and Remembrance Ceremony of The Battle of Groton Heights and the defense of Fort Griswold on 6 Sep 2026. This event is hosted annually on a Sunday near the anniversary by the Friends of Fort Griswold and the State of Connecticut Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park to commemorate the battle and the terrible American losses that occurred on 6 Sep 1781. Groton City Mayor Jill Rusk was the Keynote Speaker and emcee for the ceremony, and she was assisted by Hali Keeler, President of the Friends of Fort Griswold. https://friendsctstateparks.org/friends-of-fort-griswold-battlefield-state-park/



Members of the Connecticut Line Color Guard discharge a musket volley, overlooking the steep incline facing the Thames River, at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park.

The Battle of Groton Heights was the last major battle in New England and the Northeast during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and was one of the bloodiest of the entire war. During his speech at the ceremony that included over 200 attendees, Col. David Perkins reminded the audience that this is also Remembrance Week for the 9/11 attacks of 2001 in the United States, and what occurred at both Fort Griswold and on 9/11 should never be forgotten. We should not forget the loss of American lives and the American blood that was shed and sacrificed for our liberty—then and now. He also emphasized service over self, and to remember those lives lost for our freedom. As part of the ceremony, the names of the fallen were read, and to mourn their deaths and celebrate their legacies, an individual candle was extinguished to honor each name. At the conclusion of the ceremony a 3-volley musket salute was fired by the Connecticut Line, followed by the sounding of Taps. Also supporting this event was the Nutmeg Volunteer Junior Ancient Fife & Drum Corps.



Col. David Perkins; Juliette Parker, Town of Groton Mayor; Jill Rusk, City of Groton Mayor; and Jason Rusk, Jill's husband who played taps for the event. Standing next to the Col. William Ledyard (1738-1781) marker at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park.



250th Anniversary Recognition Award—Bronze, Silver and Gold

Secure your place in SAR History… Or regret it later. Attend an event, accumulate points, receive the medal—It's that simple! Participation involves attendance, as well as the planning and execution of these events. All Branch compatriots are eligible to earn the America 250 Medals for participating in SAR activities. Each time you attend an event that features information about the 250th Anniversary of America, you will accumulate points to earn these medals: 25 points are required to earn the Bronze medal, 60 points will allow you to earn the Silver medal, and those with 150 points will earn the Gold medal.

Standing-Room Only for Dedication Ceremony of America 250 Bench by Hale Branch No. 6 and Groton America 250 Committee

By Marcus S. Larkin, Lieutenant Colonel, Connecticut Line, CTSSAR

11 NOVEMBER 2026 — GROTON. The Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6 and the Groton America 250 Committee hosted an America 250 Bench Dedication in honor of those Groton Patriots who served during the Revolutionary War. Members of the CTSSAR's Historic Sites and Celebrations—America 250 Committee and fellow compatriots also assisted and participated in various aspects of the ceremony. Marcus Larkin led the project for procurement, staging and dedication of this America 250 Bench. A wreath laying ceremony was performed in honor of Veterans Day at the Groton War Memorial. Town of Groton Mayor Juliette Parker and City of Groton Mayor Jill Rusk spoke during the ceremony and participated in the wreath laying ceremony. They were escorted by active-duty United States Navy personnel, local veterans, and the Connecticut Line during the ceremony. Connecticut's 1st State Troubadour Tom Callinan sang the "National Anthem," the "Armed Forces Melody," and a song dedicated to the veterans during the ceremony. Featured speakers during this ceremony were Hale Branch President Dayne Rugh; VP General, New England District, Stephen Taylor, NSSAR; and the Town of Groton Historian Mr. James Streeter. The Connecticut Line under the Command of Lt.Col. Marus Larkin rendered the appropriate honors during the ceremony, and following a musket salute the sounding of Taps was performed by compatriot Tim Burke. Hale Branch President Dayne Rugh awarded James Streeter the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to recognize his noteworthy community achievements. Jennifer Meile was also recognized with a SAR Letter of Appreciation for her efforts as the Chair of the Groton America 250 Committee. Numerous Groton veterans and citizens attended the ceremony and all seating was filled. "Well Done!" and "Huzzah!" to all of the participants who made this event possible.



Standing at the newly-dedicated America 250 Bench are Jennifer Miele, Chair, Groton America 250 Committee, and Lt.Col. Marcus Larkin, Connecticut Line, CTSSAR.

Think About Active Duty in the Connecticut SAR Color Guard

By Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard



21 NOVEMBER 2026 — BETHEL. Any CTSSAR member is eligible to join the Connecticut SAR Color Guard. Also referred to as the Connecticut Line/Living History Unit, this unit participates in all events that the State Society sponsors, as well as events sponsored by the SAR National Society. These include Patriot grave markings, parades, commendations of historical figures and events, reenactments, and so much more. An annual calendar of these events is published on the CTSSAR website and is periodically updated. As for uniform requirements, sometimes referred to a colonial-era regalia, the Connecticut Line leadership will work with interested members in acquiring the basic uniform and equipment needed to perform as a color guardsman.

~ Pride – Precision – Tradition ~

Contact: Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard.
Email: dperkinssr8@gmail.com

Sherman Branch 5 Continues Exemplary Schedule of Events and Gears Up for Wreaths Across America in December

By Mr. Robert L. Clark, Jr., President, Roger Sherman Branch No. 5

17 OCTOBER 2026 — FAIRFIELD. Taking a short breather after the historic Independence Day and America 250 events, Sherman Branch 5 continued its bolstered agenda of public service and patriotic fellowship in the fall. Staring on 4 Oct 2026, compatriot Edd Eckert led the branch's annual participation at the Massing of the Colors, this year held at the First Congregational Church in Bristol. Next, the branch partnered in a 6-hour Genealogy Session with the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, Fairfield, CTDAR, on 10 Oct 2026, which was held at the Fairfield Museum and History Center.



Roger Sherman (2nd from Left) Depicted in the Declaration of Independence Mural at the National Archives in Washington, DC in the Room Where the Original Declaration of Independence is on Display.

***Fun with Artificial Intelligence* (AI) !**
Contact Robert Clark for an email that contains a video link, where you can "click" the image depicted above for a message from the Honorable Mr. Sherman himself !

On 17 Oct 2026, members were very active during the grave marking ceremony at Hillside Cemetery and Arboretum in Wilton, Connecticut, where the gravesites of 5 Revolutionary War patriots were honored. This event was hosted by Hillside Cemetery, Sherman Branch 5, and Drum Hill Chapter, Wilton, CTDAR, and also featured the award of a branch SAR Flag Certificate. Three days later on 20 Oct 2026 with 4 chapters of the nearby CTDAR, Sherman Branch 5 held its 2nd SAR Senate at South Bay Restaurant, 55 Miller Street, Fairfield, which was a dinner meeting where members were asked to bring topics for discussion. Active at another grave marking ceremony on 6 Nov 2026, members of Sherman Branch 5 attended an event led by the Norwalk-Village Green Chapter, CTDAR at Godfrey Cemetery in Weston.

Looking ahead to the Christmas season, the marque fall event of Sherman Branch 5 is the **Wreaths Across America** commemorations on Saturday, 19 Dec 2026. This special day will begin with a branch meeting at 10:00 AM (time to be confirmed, donuts and coffee typically provided) at the Darien Library, 1441 Post Road, Darien, CT, 06820; afterwards at about 11:30 AM (time to be confirmed), the members will walk across the street to participate in the Wreaths Across America event at the Spring Grove Cemetery in Darien. You are ENCOURAGED to attend this annual branch event! Questions? Email me at President@RogerShermanCTSSAR.org.



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"***

Wolcott Branch Swears-in Two New Members

By Timothy S. Hill, President, Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10

10 OCTOBER 2026 — LITCHFIELD COUNTY. Governor Oliver Wolcott Branch No. 10 of the CTSSAR welcomed two new compatriots who were pinned at our Branch meeting. The induction ceremony of Howard A. Rochon III and Gregory A. Wityak was conducted by branch president Timothy Hill and branch vice president Michael D. Prange. New compatriot Howard A Rochon III's membership patriot is Sergeant Gideon Judson (1748-1821), who as a resident of the town of Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut served in Capt. Nathan Hine's Company of Col. Benjamin Hinman's 13th Connecticut Milita Regiment. A muster role shows Sgt. Judson engaged on Long Island, New York from 15 Aug to 13 Sep 1776 during the New York Campaign. Gregory A. Wityak's membership patriot is Second Lieutenant Conraedt Lesher, who as a resident of Rhinebeck Precinct, Dutchess County, New York served in Capt. Andrew Heermanse's 4th Rhinebeck Precinct Company of Col. Morris Graham's 1st Dutchess County Militia Regiment of New York. A muster role for 2Lt. Lesher is dated 5 Nov 1778. As a gesture of Patriot Service early in the war, in Jun-Jul 1775, Conraedt Lesher is on a list of Rhinebeck Precinct residents who signed the Association Test, thereby pledging his support for the Revolutionary cause.



Timothy S Hill, Howard A. Rochon III, Gregory A. Wityak, and Michael D. Prange.

Wolcott Branch Drives Dedication Project at New Milford Public Library

By Michael H. Bird, Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10

4 JULY 2026 — NEW MILFORD. A Spirit of 1776 monument and nearby new flagpole were dedicated at the historic New Milford Public Library on the 250th Anniversary of America. Several months in the making, Michael Bird and Wolcott Branch 10 were instrumental in driving this collaborative project, which was joined by the Town of New Milford, the Ezra Woods American Legion Post 31 of New Milford, and the New Milford Post 1672 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Auxiliary. The new granite marker with bronze plaque dominates the high foot traffic area near the front-stairs entryway to library, which is located on the New Milford Town Green. Thanking him for is generous support and dedication speech, an Aug 2026 hand-written thank you letter from the New Milford Public Library to compatriot Bird stated "These beautiful additions to our Community will stand for years to come as a tribute to the New Milford men, women and children who supported the cause of freedom during the American Revolution. Your generosity, participation and presence make this celebration especially meaningful. We're deeply grateful for helping us honor and preserve history for future generations."



Sprit of 1776 Monument & New Flagpole at New Milford Public Library, Dedicated 4 Jul 2026.

Death of Capt. Samuel Allyn at Battle of Groton Heights Honored with Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony

By Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard; Secretary, CTSSAR



Jennifer Miele, Juliette Parker, Lt.Col. Marcus S. Larkin, Louis Allyn, and Col. David Perkins. At the gravesite of Capt. Samuel Allyn.

6 SEPTEMBER 2026 — GROTON. The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution America 250 Sites and Celebration Committee, and the Town of Groton America 250 Committee performed a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony in honor of Captain Samuel Allyn (1734-1781) who gave his life on 6 Sep 1781 during the Battle of Groton Heights and the defense of Fort Griswold 245 years ago. Capt. Allyn was in command of the 2nd Company of the Groton Alarm List, 8th Regiment of Connecticut Militia. The ceremony was held at the small Wood Family Cemetery in Groton, Connecticut. The Town of Groton Mayor Juliette Parker was the guest of honor and keynote speaker. During the ceremony Mayor Parker unveiled the SAR Patriot Marker, and with Jennifer Miele, Groton 250 Committee Chair, and Mr. Louis Allyn—a descendant of Capt. Samuel Allyn—they placed a wreath and flowers on his grave. After the wreathing laying ceremony, the CTSSAR Connecticut Line under the command of Col. David Perkins fired a 3-volley musket salute in honor of Capt. Samuel Allyn and his sacrifice to our nation. Following the musket salute compatriots and guests were invited to place flowers on Capt. Samuel Allyn's grave and that concluded the ceremony. This commemoration was immediately followed by the 245th Anniversary and Remembrance Ceremony of The Battle of Groton Heights, at Fort Griswold.

War of 1812 Veteran Michael Clear Honored with Individual Grave Marking

By David C. Wold, President, Captain Matthew Mead Branch No. 11



Capt. Michael Clear 1783-1858 Lyon-Rawson Cemetery Greenwich, Conn.

9 SEPTEMBER 2026 — BYRAM SHORE-GREENWICH. Although atypical for a patriotic organization who honors Revolutionary War veterans, Mead Branch 11 honored a notable sea captain, mariner, and veteran of the War of 1812 at the Byram (Shore) Burial Ground, also known as the Lyon-Rawson Cemetery in Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Michael Clear (1783-1858) participated in several famed engagements during the war, first serving as the foretop captain aboard the famed frigate USS Constitution, which defeated and captured the British frigates HMS Guerriere and HMS Java, during separate engagements in 1812. During these two engagements, Clear served under famed US Navy Captains Isaac Hull and William Bainbridge, who would both later attain the rank of Commodore. If Michael Clear was then considered a commissioned officer, that means when Capt. Hull was awarded his Congressional Gold Medal, that Clear was awarded a Silver copy of the same—in addition to sharing the extraordinarily large prize money for the HMS Guerriere's destruction. This same USS Constitution sails today and is the second oldest naval vessel still in commission and still afloat. At least two Revolutionary War patriots have been identified in this small burial ground, and the Mead Branch is evaluating future grave markings here.

CTSSAR Encamped at Ellington Historical Society's America 250 Revolutionary War Living History Day

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

7 NOVEMBER 2026 — ELLINGTON. Compatriots Dan Dudley, Marcus Larkin, and Todd Gerlander attended the America 250 Revolutionary War Living History Event at the Nellie McKnight Museum, which was organized by the Ellington Historical Society in Ellington, Connecticut. Compatriots Dudley and Gerlander setup a Revolutionary War camp to recruit new SAR members, and a few interested candidates left their information with Dan. We portrayed the 11th Regiment of Connecticut Militia, which was composed of the General Israel Putnam Branch No. 4 detachment of the Connecticut Line Color Guard. Compatriot Marcus Larkin setup a powder horn display with the Lebanon Militia. Our compatriots talked to a lot of people, and some children who were really interested in the American Revolution. Based on the success of this event, there is mutual thinking that the Ellington Historical Society and CTSSAR will partner for similar events in the future. The weather somewhat cooperated for a good event. It was mostly cloudy with light on-and-off rain. Luckily, the pouring rain held off until the end of the event, when the camp was being dismantled and during the drive home. A lot of equipment had to be cleaned up and dried out for another CTSSAR event the following day. Ellington Historical Society: https://ellingtonhistsoc.org/



Dan Dudley and Todd Gerlander in front of the CTSSAR Revolutionary War camp.

Compatriot Damien Cregeau Presents on Gov. John Trumbull and Other Lesser-Known Connecticut Patriots During the Revolutionary War

By Damien M. Cregeau, Past President, CTSSAR; Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7

5 AUGUST 2026 — GREENWICH. During a presentation to the Retired Men's Association (RMA) of Greenwich, which featured his 2025 book *"Portraits of Patriots: Colonel John Trumbull and Five Fellow Patriots from Connecticut in the American Revolution,"* Damien Cregeau explored the lives of Rebel Governor John Trumbull and other less-remembered contributors to American Independence. The local *Greenwich Sentinel* generously devoted nearly an entire page of their 27 Aug 2026 newspaper edition to Damien's speech and background regarding his book, the completion of which was a side benefit of the COVID-19 lockdown. RMA speaker presentations (https://greenwichrma.org/) are presented as a community service at no cost to in-person or Zoom attendees, regardless of gender. RMA has weekly meetings and Cregeau was the third speaker they have had on the American Revolution this year; one of the earlier presentations was a surprisingly interesting exploration of Long Island whaling boats. In attendance during this presentation was compatriot David C. Wold, President of the Captain Matthew Mead Branch No. 11, CTSSAR. Contact Damien if you would like the PDF file of the interesting *Greenwich Sentinel* newspaper article.



Damien M. Cregeau Photograph via Greenwich Sentinel, 27 Aug 2026, Page 2.

Constitution Day Celebrated with Liberty Tree Dedication & Town Proclamation

By David C. Wold, President, Captain Matthew Mead Branch No. 11





17 SEPTEMBER 2026— GREENWICH. On a sunny day that also marked the 239th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787, the Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution (CTSSAR) hosted a gathering in Greenwich, Connecticut to celebrate planting of a Liberty Tree as part of their marking of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in the United States. Attendees included town representatives, fellow residents, the superintendent of the Greenwich Public Schools, and the Executive Director and other members of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy—who donated the American elm tree. Described as an appropriate setting for the dedication at the Board of Education's front lawn on 290 Greenwich Avenue, CTSSAR representative Col. David Perkins attended the ceremony. The Liberty Tree and plaque will share space with other monuments recognizing community members who have sacrificed their lives for Liberty and Freedom—both at home and overseas. The First Selectman's Constitution Day Proclamation was read by town employee Jonathan Fasone, and a statement was read by Kate Dzikiewicz, Executive Director of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy. "It's important to keep history alive. Planting 300+ Liberty trees across America, and nearly 30 in local Connecticut communities during the Americas 250th, is a wonderful way to keep history alive," said SAR Matthew Mead Branch No. 11's President and Greenwich resident David Wold. The history of Liberty Trees (or poles) in America is a significant reference to the start of the American Revolution and the right to gather and speak freely. In Greenwich, the front of Board of Education has been used, and is being used, as a safe space to share ideas, and to continually reinforce the people's right to speak freely and have representation in government.

Get On-Line: State SAR News & Future Activities…

https://www.sarconnecticut.org/

YOU are encouraged to visit the CTSSAR website to find well-organized news, future events, previous newsletters, America 250 updates, and links to Facebook and other social media related to YOUR state society. This website is the CENTER of our universe for CTSSAR activities. If you need help to inaugurate your first visit to the website, ASK for help! All-things patriotic are just one click away…



Wadsworth Branch Partners with Stanley-Whitman House Museum and Ruth Wyllys Chapter, DAR for 2nd Annual Memento Mori Cemetery Commemorations

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

7 NOVEMBER 2026 — FARMINGTON. Continuing a new tradition started last year, Wadsworth Branch 7 was a key partner in the 2nd Annual Veterans Roll Call held at Memento Mori Cemetery in Farmington, Connecticut. The ceremony honored all veterans—living and deceased—and featured a remembrance of 52 specific Patriots, whose names were read aloud as part of the Honor Roll of Revolutionary War Patriots. Stated in the robust published program, "We remember their service and sacrifice, and honor all who have defended our nation." A Town of Farmington Proclamation was read by Town Council Chair Brian F.X. Connolly, and a Connecticut General Assembly Citation was read by State Representative Mike Demicco of the 21st Assembly District. Next, Andres A. Verzosa, Executive Director and Curator of the Stanley-Whitman House Museum, delivered the narrative "Remembrance at 250" for Memento Mori and Memento Belli. The reading of the roll call for the 52 Patriots was completed by Alyce Barlowski; Nicole Paquette; and Jane Dalal of the Stanley-Whitman House. A brief reception followed the ceremonies at the Stanley-Whitman House at 37 High St. in Farmington. There, remarks were made by Elizabeth Dalton Sullivan, Regent, Ruth Wyllys Chapter, Hartford, CTDAR. The Stanley-Whitman House, a National Historic Landmark, is a museum and living history center preserving and interpreting the history of Farmington, Connecticut. Contact Rich Kendall for a copy of the program.



Memento Mori Cemetery Archway, Farmington, Connecticut

History of SAR Session Given by CT Color Guard at Silas Bronson Library

By Col. David J. Perkins, Commander, State Color Guard; Secretary, CTSSAR

30 SEPTEMBER 2026 — WATERBURY. Members of the Connecticut Line, the living history and color guard unit of the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), were on hand at the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury to present an interesting program on the history of the SAR. Held at the library's Main Reading Room, the panel of SAR Color Guardsmen and historians included Col. David J. Perkins, 1st Sergeant Martin F. Spring, Michael A. Krenesky and Jon King. During the 90-minute session, attendees learned how and why each member of the panel got involved with the SAR. The interactive session included a presentation of equipment, weapons, and artifacts from the Revolutionary War period, such as the Betsy Ross Flag and the Union Jack Flag, flint-lock muskets and pistols, swords and scabbards. Also exploring the everyday life of colonial soldiers, on display were haversacks, cooking ware, and camping gear. The event was organized by Martin F. Spring in conjunction with Silas Bronson Librarian Rebecca Bridges; and the library generously donated $150 to the CTSSAR. Special thanks to Martin Spring for all his efforts to organize this and several other events this year on behalf of the Gov. Oliver Wolcott detachment and the Connecticut Line.



Martin F. Spring, Michael A. Krenesky, Jonathan W. King, and David J. Perkins at the Silas Bronson Library. Photograph Courtesy of Librarian Rebecca Bridges.

Putnam Branch Inducts 3 New Members at Well-Attended Meeting; 2026 SAR Flag Certificate Awarded; Slate of Branch Officers Announced for 2027-2028.

By Michael F. Brothers, President, General Israel Putnam Branch No. 4

24 OCTOBER 2026 — UNION. The fall meeting and luncheon of Putnam Branch 4 was held at Blondie's Travelers Diner in Union, with 14 members in attendance. President Michael Brothers inducted 3 new members into the branch, and Daryl Goss, James Goss and Gary Waterhouse were presented with SAR member rosettes. During the business portion of the meeting, it was reported that branch membership stands at 47 members and the treasury at $1,657. An annual tradition dating back to the branch's 1992 rechartering, it was voted again to donate $250 to the Cornerstone Foundation's Food Shelter for the Holidays, which is a faith-based ministry with a mission to keep people safe, fed, housed and clothed. Getting a headstart on leadership decisions to be voted on at the branch's 2027 annual meeting, Putnam Branch 4's slate of officer nominations for the 2027-2028 calendar are: President: Michael Brothers; Vice President: David Jones; Secretary: Bruce Lyon; Treasurer: Michael Juhase; and Chaplain and Historian: Todd Gerlander. Earlier on 21 Sep 2026, branch compatriots Michael Brothers, Robert Paakkonen, and Todd Gerlander presented the branch's 2026 SAR Flag Certificate to Christopher Paradiso of Paradiso Insurance in Stafford Springs, Connecticut.



Putnam Branch 4 Members: Michael F. Brothers; George J. Crede, Jr.; Dan E. Dudley; James Dumaine-Savage; Todd L. Gerlander; Daryl J. Goss; James T. Goss; David A. Jones; Michael A. Juhase; Bruce C. Lyon; Robert F. Paakkonen; David H. Packard; Gary E. Waterhouse, Jr.; and Keith E. Wilson.



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

Distinguished Compatriot Spotlight – Todd L. Gerlander

By Todd L. Gerlander, Past President, CTSSAR



Todd L. Gerlander

Todd is a Christian and serves as chaplain for his SAR branch. He is also a patriotic American who has devoted a good part of his life to the SAR, and its promotion of history, patriotism, and education. General George Washington stated in his General Order on May 2, 1778, "To the distinguished Character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to add the more distinguished Character of Christian." His name is pronounced Jer-lan-der in English (an English soft G, pronounced like the G in Germanic). It's Swedish, the name originally being spelled Jerlander in Sweden. During High School, Todd attended the Center for Creative Youth program for Visual Arts at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, and later graduated with a B.F.A. in Communications Design with a Major in Illustration from Pratt Institute, School of Art and Design, Brooklyn, New York. In addition to his love of art, he is also interested in genealogy and history, his main historical interests being Viking/Anglo-Saxon and 17th and 18th century America. Over the years he has had a few historical papers published; and one genealogical paper published in the Connecticut Nutmegger by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists which he co-authored with his father Lee Gerlander titled, "The Lost Trumbull," which set the genealogical record straight and corrected a lot of misinformation on the descendants of Joseph Trumbull Jr., Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Sr.'s older brother who was lost at sea aboard the Trumbull family's merchant vessel the brigantine Lebanon. Todd coined the term, "The Lost Trumbull," since he was not only lost at sea, but he was lost to history as well. Both he and his descendants were pretty much forgotten. This paper was followed by a Lost Trumbull online blog Todd wrote for eight years on the history, traditions, and genealogy of the Trumbull family of Lebanon, Connecticut. The Trumbull family is a Sept of the Scottish Turnbull Clan. Todd is a direct descendant of Joseph Trumbull Jr. and his father Captain Joseph Trumbull Sr., who brought the Trumbull family to Lebanon in 1704 and had his house, known as the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House built circa 1726 (later inherited by his only surviving son Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Sr. in 1755), and the Trumbull family store (later used as the War Office during the American Revolution 1775-1783) built circa 1727. Todd's special interest in the War Office is both historical and family related, and he looks forward to helping organize the War Office's 300th anniversary event next year in 2027.

Todd has been a member of CTSSAR for 32 years, joining in January of 1995, having attended Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 meetings as a prospective member starting in July of 1993. He served as branch president of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 (1999-2002) and state president of the Connecticut SAR (2006-2007). He also served as chairman of his branch's annual George Washington's Birthday Revolutionary War Exhibit and Muster which was first held at the New England Civil War Museum in Vernon (1996) before moving to the Old State House in Hartford (1997-2003). It was the largest George Washington Birthday event in New England. He served as chairman of his branch's George Washington Bicentennial Committee in 1999, which was recognized by Mount Vernon as part of the official George Washington Bicentennial Community, and in 2005 he served as chairman of the CTSSAR Captain Nathan Hale 250 Revolutionary War Encampment Weekend and History Symposium at the Nathan Hale…

Todd L. Gerlander (*Continued…*)

…Schoolhouse in East Haddam commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Captain Nathan Hale (Connecticut's State Hero), just to name a few of many accomplishments. For his service to CTSSAR he was presented with two of the state society's highest honors, the Patriot Medal in 2002, and the State Distinguished Service Medal in 2012. One of his largest contributions to the SAR is in color guard, where he helped organize the first SAR district color guard called the New England Contingent of SAR Color Guards and Living History Units, serving as its only commander from 1999-2006, receiving a Certificate of Distinguished Service from NSSAR. He also served as CTSSAR color guard commander from 1999 to 2015 and helped to re-structure it into the Connecticut Line in 2005. He currently serves as branch color guard captain (A position he has held for over three decades 1995-present) of the Gen. Israel Putnam Branch #4 detachment of the Connecticut Line portraying the 11th Regiment of Connecticut Militia, a branch color guard/living history unit he helped organize (1993-1995). It's the oldest continuously running branch color guard detachment in the CTSSAR. Todd has kept a color guard history which documents all the Revolutionary War encampments and reenactments, parades, school programs, commemorations, grave markings and SAR functions that he has attended over three decades which currently total over 700 events. In 2015 he was presented with the National Von Steuben Medal for sustained achievement in the color guard, and the District Silver Roger Sherman Medal. In 2026 for past service, he was presented with the State Color Guard Commander's Medal with oak leaf clusters.

Todd currently serves as chairman of the CTSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee, a committee he chaired from the committee's inception in 2003 to 2017, and again chairing from 2022 to present. For the past three years this has included chairing the CTSSAR America 250 Committee, earning the 250th Anniversary Gold Medal in 2025.

Todd is a direct descendant of nine SAR proven patriot ancestors: ***Private Seth Wetherell*** (circa 1738-1745 to 1798) from Massachusetts who served in Captain David Nye's (14th) Company, 4th Plymouth County Regiment, Rhode Island Alarm, December 10, 1776; Captain David Nye's (2nd Wareham) Company, Colonel Sprout's Regiment, Dartmouth/Falmouth Alarm, September 5, 1778. ***Corporal Joseph Johnson*** (1750-1808) from Connecticut who served in Captain Nathaniel Webb's company, Colonel John Durkee's Fourth Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line. He served from 1 March 1777 to 1 March 1780. He re-enlisted in Captain Andrew Fitch's Company of the Fourth Connecticut Regiment for a term of seventeen months and was discharged 30 September 1781. He served at Germantown, Valley Forge, Monmouth, Redding, Morristown, Connecticut Village. ***Private John Shaw*** (1729-1815) from Massachusetts and Rhode Island who served in Captain James Briggs' Company under Colonel Freeman on secret expedition to Rhode Island (surprise attack on the British at Portsmouth, Rhode Island), October 1777, 29 days service. ***Private Jabez Chadsey, Sr.*** (1720-1820) from Rhode Island who served in Captain Joseph Davis's Company, North Kingstown Militia, Rhode Island, July 1778; Captain Joseph Davis's Company, Colonel Dyer's Regiment, August 22-31, 1778. ***Private Jabez Chadsey, Jr.*** (1754-1820) from Rhode Island who served in various companies of Rhode Island militia 1775-1781, part of Rhode Island's "Army of Observation," served in guarding the coastline against the British; served in Captain Peter Wright's Company in Sullivan's Expedition at Newport, Battle of Rhode Island, 1778; also served 14 months and 15 days protecting the frontier posts in New York. ***Private Robert Spencer*** (1755-after 1781) from Rhode Island who served in the Kentish…

Todd L. Gerlander (*Continued…*)

…Guards, Captain William Arnold's Company, Colonel Richard Fry's Regiment, Rhode Island Militia 1777-1781. Encamped at Warren, Rhode Island, October 9, 1777; Alarm of July 1780 and Alarm of August 1780. ***Private Charles Foote, Sr.*** (1723-1795) from Connecticut who served in Captain Parson's (10th) Company, Colonel Benjamin Hinman's Fourth Connecticut Regiment of 1775, served at Siege of Boston, May 13, 1775-December 3, 1775. ***Jacob Simons*** (1720-1797) from Connecticut who served as Justice of the Peace, Windham County, Connecticut. ***Joseph Case*** (1731-1809) from Connecticut who carted cannon from the Salisbury Foundry to Hartford, Connecticut, and lodged the baggage carrier for Captain David Phelps' Company.

A few of Todd's collateral patriots of note in addition to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Sr. (his ancestral uncle) are his four patriot sons (his ancestral first cousins) Joseph Trumbull, Jonathan Trumbull Jr., David Trumbull, and John Trumbull (the Painter of the American Revolution); and Major General Nathanael Greene (another ancestral first cousin).

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

Mr. John W. Alter
Mr. Forrest L. Anderson
Mr. William P. Atwater, III
Mr. William P. Atwater, IV
Mr. Jonathan M. Breen
Mr. Richard R. Charron
Mr. Trevor R. Chillson
Mr. John T. Cilio
Mr. James F. Ciquera
Mr. Patrick J. Ciquera
Mr. Nathan L. Colkitt
Mr. Ryan M. DiPasquale
Mr. Andrew K. Erdos
Dr. Joseph J. Erdos, M.D.
Mr. Andrew H. Griffin
Mr. Henry R. Griffin
Mr. Gerald A. Guild
Mr. Michael J. Hitchery
Mr. Claud R. Hooker
Mr. Glenn A. Hutchinson
Mr. Michael P. Keigher
Mr. Timothy J. Klauser
Mr. Peter J. Lanza
Mr. Phinneas J. Lattanzi
Mr. Robert G. Leary
Mr. Kenneth Lisk
Mr. Brian J. Lisk
Mr. Robert A. Magovern
Mr. William J. Mallin
Mr. Robert A. Martin
Mr. John C. Maxwell
Mr. David W. Miles
Mr. Fred K. Potter
Mr. Alexander H. Richter
Mr. Peter A. Richter, Jr.
Mr. Peter A. Richter, II
Mr. Charles R. Riczu
Mr. Howard A. Rochon, III
Mr. Jerry C. Shaw
Mr. David I. Sonderman
Mr. Michael E. Sonderman
Mr. Oliver R. Sonderman
Mr. Everett A. St. Louis
Mr. Keith L. Stock
Mr. Gregory A. Wityak

Connecticut Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/connecticutsar
"*…where our future members spend their time.*"

Website https://www.sarconnecticut.org/

Branch Presidents & Secretaries

General David Humphreys Branch No. 1
- Mr. Christopher D. Bandecchi, President
- Mr. Gregory E. Thompson, Secretary

General Israel Putnam Branch No. 4
- Mr. Michael F. Brothers, President
- Lt. Col. Bruce C. Lyon, Secretary

Roger Sherman Branch No. 5
- Mr. Robert L. Clark, Jr., President
- Mr. Peter G. Snyder, Secretary

Captain Nathan Hale Branch No. 6
- Mr. Dayne E. Rugh, President
- Mr. Matthew E. Fergione, Secretary

Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch No. 7
- Mr. Richard W. Kendall, President
- Mr. Justin L. Ankerman, Secretary

Chaplain Ebenezer Baldwin Branch No. 9
- Mr. David J. Perkins, President
- Mr. Mark D. Shisler, Secretary

Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch No. 10
- Mr. Timothy S. Hill, President
- Mr. Matthew M. Bradley, Secretary

Captain Matthew Mead Branch No. 11
- Mr. David C. Wold, President
- Mr. Christopher B. Sortino, Secretary

Governor Jonathan Trumbull Branch No. 13
- Mr. Mark W. Sheldon, Sr., President
- Mr. David J. Perkins, Secretary

State Society Officers (2026-2027)

Mr. Kenneth D. Roach	National Trustee
Mr. Frederick R. Lorthioir	Alternate National Trustee
Mr. Mark W. Sheldon, Sr.	President
Mr. Timothy S. Hill	1st Vice President
Mr. Robert L. Clark, Jr.	2nd Vice President
Mr. David J. Perkins	Recording Secretary
Mr. David J. Perkins	Corresponding Secretary
Mr. Frederick R. Lorthioir	Treasurer
Mr. Richard W. Kendall	Assistant Treasurer
Mr. Ethan A. Stewart, Sr.	Registrar
Mr. Richard W. Kendall	Chaplain
Mr. Gary S. Pitcock	Historian
Mr. Peter G. Snyder	Chancellor
Mr. Brian J. Burland	Auditor
Mr. Robert B. Carrara	Auditor
Mr. David H. Packard	Real Property Steward
Mr. David J. Perkins	Color Guard Commander

Newsletter Project Management
Editor, Design & Layout: Ethan A. Stewart, Sr.
Assistant Editor: Kurt S. Potter
Published: November 2026