

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

PO Box 411
East Haddam, Connecticut
06423



Organized April 2, 1889
Incorporated January 3, 1890

CTSSAR Report to the New England District

October 16, 2015

October 1, 2015 - 41 New Compatriots & 5 Reinstated = 585 active members

April 20 - Patriot's Day in Concord Massachusetts

The 240th Anniversary Patriot's Day Parade had 13 members of the CTSSAR marching in the parade. VPG Doug Wood presented CTSSAR Color Guard Commander, Todd Gerlander with the SAR Silver Roger Sherman Medal from the New England District for his nearly 20 years as the CTSSAR Color Guard Commander. The presentation was made at the Colonial Inn during lunch.

June 17 - 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill

10 members of the Connecticut Line participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill Commemoration Ceremonies at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Following a three volley musket salute to the Heroes of Bunker Hill, Todd Gerlander placed a wreath at the Connecticut Gate. Wreaths were also placed at the Massachusetts Gate (MASSAR), New Hampshire Gate (NHSSAR) and the United States Gate (SAR). Huzzah! The combined color guards of CT, MA, and NH posed for a photo in front of the Colonel William Prescott statue at the base of the Bunker Hill obelisk.

July 25/26 Historic Military Encampment, Griswold Bicentennial

The Connecticut Line CTSSAR participated in the Historic Military Encampment, part of the town of Griswold Bicentennial. We did some colonial cooking, some musket firing, camped out. It was a well organized event.

234th Anniversary Commemoration NSSAR Battle of Groton Heights

On September 6, 2015, 22 members of the Connecticut Line CTSSAR participated in the NSSAR 234th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Groton Heights (September 6, 1781) at both Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park and the Col. William Ledyard Cemetery in Groton, Connecticut. This is the third year the event has been recognized as a NSSAR Historic Site/Celebration and SAR Silver Color Guard Medal Event. We placed a Connecticut SAR wreath at the Col. Ledyard marker inside Fort Griswold, and we placed a Connecticut SAR wreath at Col. Ledyard's grave. We also fired three musket volleys at each location. Special thanks to Compatriot Tyler Smith who helped set up/coordinate the ceremonies this year.

On October 10, 2015, 17 members of the Connecticut Line CTSSAR participated in the 305th Birthday Commemoration of Connecticut's Revolutionary War Governor, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (1710-1785). The event also celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It was held at the Gov. Trumbull House/Wadsworth Stable (owned and maintained by CTDAR) in Lebanon, Connecticut. As part of the DAR 125th/Gov. Trumbull 305th Birthday ceremonies, the CTSSAR held a wreath laying ceremony for Gov. Trumbull's Birthday, and also swore in two new SAR members.

The Connecticut Line CTSSAR also held a Change of Command Ceremony at the War Office (owned and maintained by CTSSAR), where Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. and his Council of Safety met during the American Revolution. The ceremony was based on the NSSAR Color Guard Change of Command Ceremony, and both NSSAR New England District Vice President General Douglas Wood and Connecticut SAR State President Ethan Stewart took part. Colonel Todd Gerlander officially passed command of the Connecticut Line, Living History/Color Guard Unit of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to Colonel David Perkins, the new CTSSAR State Color Guard Commander. Compatriot Todd Gerlander commanded the unit from 1999 to 2006 as Commander of the New England Contingent, NSSAR New England District Living History/Color Guard Unit and as Commander of the Connecticut Line, CTSSAR Living History/Color Guard Unit from 2005 to 2015. During the ceremony, compatriot Todd Gerlander was presented the NSSAR National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in recognition of his sustained service as a Color Guardsmen to the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (Compatriot Todd Gerlander has been an active CTSSAR Color Guardsmen since 1995). The award was presented by NSSAR New England District Vice President General Douglas Wood.

United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) - Alexander Hamilton Award for 2015

Cadet Brittney Zimmerman was presented the 2015 NSSAR Alexander Hamilton Award at the United States Coast Guard Academy's Individual Proficiency Awards Ceremony on May 19, 2015 in New London, CT. The award is a cash prize for the most outstanding Senior Thesis, Capstone Project, or Directed Study in Public Policy or Government. CT-SAR President Ethan Stewart and Robert W. Rivard, CT-SAR Past President presented the award. They also presented Cadet Zimmerman with a certificate from CT-SAR for being an Outstanding Cadet.

Cadet (now Ensign) Zimmerman comes from mid-state Pennsylvania and majored in Government Studies. As part of her Capstone Project she performed studies in the Arctic. Following graduation, she planned to marry and travel with her husband to their first assignments in Seattle, WA.

Connecticut Society - Nathan Hale Award at USCGA – Fall 2015

The Connecticut Society worked with the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) to establish the Nathan Hale Award. This is a cash award of \$ 300 given to the cadet who excels in security studies. Providing the award is a way of recognizing the USCGA as the only service academy in CT and thanking them for their continuing support of the Connecticut Society by

having cadets work on all three of our museum properties. Naming the award after Nathan Hale is appropriate since the USCGA is in New London, one of the two locations where he taught, and the CT-SAR owns the two Nathan Hale schoolhouses. Presenting the award to a cadet who excels in security studies connects to Nathan Hale in his role as a spy.

On September 26, 2015, the CT-SAR presented its first annual Nathan Hale Award at the USCGA's Parents' Weekend Fall Awards Ceremony. The recipient was First Class Cadet Caroline Miller. She served as an intern at the Intelligence Coordination Center this past summer and was selected as one of two cadets representing the USCGA on the Western Hemisphere Advanced Research Project. The focus of the project is to examine maritime threats on our southern border.

ROTC/JROTC Report for 2015

Chairmen – David J. Perkins

JROTC Program

JROTC High Schools in Connecticut (14): Bethel, Danbury, Crosby(Waterbury), Wilby(Waterbury), Hillhouse(New Haven), Bloomfield, New London, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Brian McMahon(Norwalk), New Britain, Westhill(Stamford), Torrington and Bridgeport.

2015 Awards:

For 2015, 9 medals were presented to 8 of 14 high school JROTC programs across the state. New Britain did not request a medal for 2015. Westhill, Norwalk, Wilby and Hillhouse High Schools did not submit a request once again. Bridgeport is still growing its program and should be eligible for 2016.

NSSAR Enhanced Program

State Winner: Kevin Pimponelli of Naugatuck High, Medal & Cash award of \$500.

State Runner Up: Brian Bourn of Bethel High, Medal & Cash award of \$100 from Branch #9.

Honorable Mention: Danbury High School.

The Enhanced program had 4 nominations submitted for the state/national awards.

Naval Sea Cadet Corp

On March 25, Michael J. Perry of the Barque Eagle Division in Plainville was awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship medal with Ribbon Bar.

ROTC Program

Humphreys Branch presented awards to Yale on April 23rd for Navy and Air Force. Huntington Branch presented awards to UCONN on April 25th to Air Force and May 8th to Army.

Eagle Scout 2015

Chairman - Timothy Wilkins

Last year was a banner year with 8 applications. This year we have another banner year with 6 applications: three applications from the Connecticut Yankee Council [CYC] and five from the Connecticut Rivers Council [CRC]. A 3-member SAR team was assembled to review the applications. We are in the process on contacting the braches for their assistance and firm confirmation of recognizing these eight fine young men.

The following is the 2015 status schedule for Eagle Scout Recognition Ceremonies:

- William Weishaupt, T701, Milford [CYC] – recognized by Branch 1 on March 9th
- Isreal DeJesus, T57 E. Hartford [CRC] – recognized by Branch 4, October 2015
- Tom O’Sullivan, T491 Milford [CYC], - recognized by the Branch 5, May 2015
- Brian Gaugler, T90 Fairfield [CYC] – recognized by Branch 6, May 2015
- Jackson Gelinias, T15 West Redding [CYC] - recognized by Branch 9, June 9, 2015
- David Zwart T1 Torrington [CRC] - recognized by Branch 10, May 2015

This year our State Winner is Jackson Charles Link Gelinias, CYC. Jackson is repeat state winner. Jackson will be recognized as our State Winner at our April 18th CTSSAR State meeting at Lucky Lou’s in Wethersfield. Assisted by Dave Perkins, Roger Smith and John Gelinias (who abstained from judging his son).

National Knight Essay Winner from Connecticut Society

For the first time, the Connecticut state winner, Matthew Penza of New Fairfield was selected as the National winner and received his \$2,000 cash award after reading his winning essay at the National Youth Luncheon on Monday June 29th at the 125th National Congress of the SAR held in Louisville, KY.

September 20th the 50th Annual Massing of the Colors

This event was hosted by the CT. Society Colonial Dames XVII Century at the Saint John’s Episcopal Church in Niantic. The CTSSAR attended along with the following Branches; Baldwin, Hale and Humphreys.

General David Humphreys Branch

On May 11, 2015 Marshall Robinson presented the **Law Enforcement Award Certificate and Medal with Ribbon** to T.F.C. Jonathan Naples. Marshall also read a letter from Jonathan’s Commander. The Branch awarded 16 outstanding Citizenship Awards and pins to the Junior High School classes in the New Haven County.

The 64th Annual Ceremony to Honor the signers of the Declaration of Independence was hosted again by the Gen. David Humphreys Branch. On the morning of July 4th, at the historic Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, members of the Branch conducted the moving ceremony to honor the signers of the Declaration of Independence with special tributes paid to Roger Sherman and David Humphreys. Participants of the ceremonies were the 2nd Company Governor’s Foot Guard, 6th Conn.

Regt., Company of Light Infantry and flag bearers from Boy Scout Troop 5. Speakers for the event were Damien Cregeau, CTSSAR State 1st Vice-President and Dave Loda on his horse Huckleberry. Wreaths were presented and placed at both grave sites by members of the C.A.R.

Governor Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch

May 30th along with the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the DAR held a grave marking ceremony at the East Street Cemetery (aka the Cartwright Burying Ground) on East Street in Sharon, to honor Reuben Cartwright, a Revolutionary War patriot who is buried there. The Color Guard performed a three-volley musket salute. Gen. Wolcott's Sixth Militia Brigade Color Guard participated.

July 4th Let Freedom Ring, Litchfield

The first Litchfield Artillery Regiment fired 13 cannon salutes to honor the original 13 states that, as colonies, united for the cause of independence in 1776. This year, for the first time, the flags of the 13 original states were also present. They were obtained by Compatriot Ken Buckbee. Each flag was presented by SAR Color Guard members when each state was saluted. Once the cannon salutes were completed, the bells of the town's four churches tolled 13 times, simultaneously at 2 pm, as part of the national observance of Independence Day. Eighteen SAR Color Guard members – from as far away as New Jersey and New Hampshire participated. A total of 33 SAR members were in attendance.

September 20th. Colonial Fair & Muster Day – Hurd House – Woodbury. Gen. Wolcott's Sixth Militia Brigade

We had our encampment set up on the grounds of the historic Hurd House in Woodbury. Compatriot Ken Buckbee portrayed a camp Doctor. Compatriot Russ Wirtalla portrayed Gen. Wolcott. We had in total 15 compatriots in uniform for the daylong event, which was followed by a colonial styled dinner, prepared by the members of the Hurd House for all the participants.

NSSAR 2015 Congress Awards

Liberty Medal for Ken Buckbee, Russ Wirtalla, Tim Jacobs and Stephen Shaw.

- The George S. & Stella M. Knight Award
- Admiral William R. Furlong Memorial Award Certificate and Streamer
- ROTC/JROTC Participant Certificate and Streamer
- Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest Participant Certificate and Streamer
- Partnership in Patriotism (PIP) Award
- PIP Awards for the Wolcott and Huntington Branches
- President's Initiatives Streamer for patriot biographies to the Patriot Index

Respectfully submitted,

**Ethan Allen Stewart, Sr.
President CTSSAR**