

CTSSAR President's Report to the BOM

President Damien M. Cregeau

BOM Meeting, Montfort Mansion, Litchfield, CT

Saturday, September 7th, 2019

It was a pleasure to once again return to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy during graduation week in late May to present NSSAR's Alexander Hamilton Award to this year's deserving recipient, Cadet Brooke Haerader from Kentucky, who received a medal, certificate and \$300 check for her senior capstone research paper.

We had a very nice turnout of twenty people, including seven Compatriots from CTSSAR, at the ceremony to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the British raid and burning of Fairfield, Connecticut on Saturday, July 6th. The ceremony was held in front of the CTDAR's Old Academy Museum, built in 1800, located on the Fairfield Town Green, and across Old Post Road from my childhood home where I lived during the bicentennial, 1975-1983, which inspired my love for history. We also had a nice turnout of both CTDAR and public, and the four speeches by two CTDAR, the Sherman Branch and myself helped inform every one of the devastating damage done by the British to Fairfield, way worse even than they inflicted on New Haven days earlier, as nearly every building in town, some 150 structures, were burned to the ground.

The following weekend, on July 13th, I served as one of the four speakers for the 240th Burning of New Haven ceremony at Fort Wooster organized and hosted by Ethan Stewart. We had a very nice turnout of public, Mayor Toni Harp, Compatriots (including the Color Guard), CTDAR and our friends from the 6th Regiment and the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard.

I could not be more pleased with the expected turnout for the Revolutionary War spy symposium that will take place on Sunday, September 8th at the Litchfield Inn near the center of Litchfield. Not only will there be over 60 people in attendance, including many from both the CTDAR and CTSSAR, but the public response has been overwhelming. Fifteen of us will gather for a special black-tie dinner party at Montfort Mansion and the Marketplace Restaurant on Saturday night. Friend and 32-year career CIA officer and Revolutionary War spies historian and author Ken Daigler will speak on his interesting career following the Saturday dinner.

Another twenty people will gather for the optional dinner party following the all-day conference on Sunday. Other events I help organized include the ceremony at the grave of Lt. Col. Benjamin Tallmadge and a spy-themed walking tour of Litchfield led by the assistant director of the Litchfield Historical Society. It will be an amazing, memorable weekend.

While the Tallmadge Challenge Coin that was conceived needed to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers for coins, I really appreciate the efforts of Compatriot Stephen Taylor, who worked hard on the design for the coin for weeks. I also appreciate the hard work of Compatriot Rich Kendall, who created and managed the online registration. I am delighted that we will be

entertaining and informing friends and public alike from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York about spies in the Revolution.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming President General Manning on Saturday, October 5th in Lebanon, where I will receive the charter from him for our new Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Branch on the 250th anniversary of Trumbull's ascension to colonial governor in 1769.

Patriotically,
Damien Cregeau, President, CTSSAR