

City of New Haven

Toni N. Harp – Mayor



Good morning, everybody. It gives me great pleasure – in fact, it’s my great honor – to be with you today for this special occasion commemorating the rich history of New Haven.

Thank you for inviting me to share with you this anniversary event and thank you for including me on your program.

In New Haven, we always respect and routinely celebrate the ideas of history and tradition. New Haven provides for each of us a time-honored setting where American history is a built-in part of the landscape.

This year’s 240th anniversary of the British attack on New Haven during the Revolutionary War is an entirely fitting way to celebrate these ideas of history and tradition.

Groups like this one – and their members – dedicated to the preservation and commemoration of New Haven

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history, help memorialize the prominence New Haven has had on this continent since before there was a United States of America.

All of us in New Haven should keep that in mind, stand tall as a result, and stand grateful to the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their preservation efforts.

The story of how New Haven repelled that attack 240 years ago, about how local militia members literally risked life, limb, and property, is the very definition of inspirational.

It is the quintessential American story. The struggle for freedom, autonomy, coupled with the struggle for economic justice and individual liberties still define us as a nation today.

Today, the work to form a more perfect union continues: work to protect a free and independent press, work to

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ensure an independent judiciary, work to deliver on the promise of civil rights – all these issues still require the type of vigilance on display by those New Haven residents 240 years ago.

I cherish New Haven’s history at the center of such idealism, and I embrace the fierce determination I see in New Haven today in efforts to preserve these ideals.

On behalf of all New Haven residents I thank the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for inspiring all of us to be preservationists, and I salute you on the occasion of this most noteworthy anniversary.

Thank you very much.

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