On December 8th, members of the Connecticut SAR presented the SAR Flag Certificate to Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation at their headquarters in Stratford. Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation flies the American Flag outside their main entrance and it is visible from the Merritt Parkway. With a desire to celebrate American patriotism, the Sons of the American Revolution honor those who honor the Flag of the United States of America. The SAR Flag Certificate, authorized in 1987, is presented to individuals, companies and government agencies that fly the Flag of the United States of America for patriotic purposes only. It is a certificate of commendation presented in recognition of exemplary patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America. It is not given to commercial enterprises that obviously fly the Flag for advertising purposes. Tyrone “Woody” Woodyard, Sikorsky’s Vice President of Communications, accepted the SAR Flag Certificate on behalf of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. This honor was especially meaningful to Woody as he is a veteran. Bob Rivard, State President, wore his Revolutionary War attire and led the presentation ceremony along with compatriot Ed Isaacs (far left in photo). CTSSAR compatriots who also participated in the ceremony were: (L-R in photo) Rich Forselius, John “Reg” Harrison and 1st VP, Ethan Stewart.

Share your family history

Now that you are a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, you have all this research on your family. You have seen copies of family histories - either from your own family or from other compatriots. You may have even written one for your family. One of the aims of SAR is to document and share the great history of our family Patriots and their ancestors.

If you have family story or pictures of an important event in your family history that you would be willing to share on the CTSSAR website, please submit to the PR committee (danielca@aol.com). Pictures should include where the picture was taken, the event, what makes it significant, and who is on the picture.

Daniel E. Benoit, PR Committee Chair
The Gov. Oliver Wolcott Sr. branch along with members of the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the DAR were part of a national tribute on that Saturday when it held a local version of the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the All Wars Memorial in Bantam. During a sunny but brisk noontime service, the branch color guard paid tribute to soldiers who have died in war, prisoners of war, the missing in action, veterans, and the men and women of the U.S. armed forces. "We are gathered here today at this memorial and at memorial sites across America to remember that we are one nation with one flag," said Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter member Susan Harrison of Morris, the master of ceremonies. "We are all proud to be Americans who live in a free society made up of many people, many races, from many walks of life." Harrison went on talk about the price of freedom and those who gave their lives to protect it. Without their sacrifice, she said, Americans wouldn't be allowed to worship as they see fit, to travel freely, to vote, and to have the right to succeed and fail at whatever endeavor they choose. The highlight of the ceremony was the placement of seven wreaths at the All Wars Memorial by seven veterans representing the six branches of the military: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. The ceremony was one of more than 800 held across the country on Saturday, including one at the Veterans Memorial in Kent. A total of more than 400,000 wreaths were placed at war memorials during those ceremonies. Color Guard members present were Ken Buckbee, Russ Cashman, Paul Selnau, Martin Spring, Jonathan King, Dave Perkins and Chris Elliott. Also present, was Reg Harrison, Air Force Veteran and wreath presenter. WAA is a National Event for all Color Guardsmen. Photo/Source: Register Citizen & Republican American

Wreaths Across America — Saturday, December 14 — Bantam, CT

Center for Advancing America’s Heritage—Donor Update

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

As of December 31, 2014 the Connecticut Society has achieved the national goal of 20% participation by its membership. Back in September at our BOM meeting in Torrington I made a plea to all those present on behalf of this national fund raising campaign. Like true Minutemen from our past you didn’t hesitate stand up and be counted. We went from 18% to 21% in those 3 months. We had 26 members make pledges or payments, along with another 16 who gave once again to this campaign for a total of $2,515. Overall 128 donors for a total $37,125.


David J. Perkins, CTSSAR Alt. Trustee
As you know everything at the Museums is at a standstill, including the War Office, which is buried in knee deep snow. The last report, from the contractors tells me that the mason is ready to start work on rebuilding the chimney. Steve Marshall is beginning to gather materials.

The Property Committee met at the Russell Library in Middletown on January 10th. The first order of business was to elect Daniel Benoit as our Treasurer, replacing Emmitt Lyman. Emmitt has served us well and deserves our utmost gratitude. He has volunteered to be our Postman in East Haddam. We also, voted to make signature corrections on the Liberty Bank account. Daniel Benoit will be the first signature and Robert Rivard will be the secondary. This item has already taken effect. Further discussions included, budget requests, projects, grants, and docent schedule. I was asked to compile, visitor numbers, docent hours and wages for the purpose of setting next seasons schedule. I can report that we had 5,263 visitors, with 2,707 being greeted by our volunteers and 2,556 being greeted by our paid docents. A complete report is available upon request.

We are continuing our requests for grant monies to help with special projects. To date the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund has not been approved for the HVAC unit at Nathan Hale, New London. The grant from DAR for the 3 picnic tables at East Haddam was denied. We had requested $2,000 to hire someone to develop new educational curricula for the East Haddam School House, from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. That request was denied.

The Committee met briefly on February 7th to review the above mentioned report. The main topic of discussion concerned ways to cut payroll by reducing hours. Closing the Museums on Wednesdays and Thursdays would save about $3,500. Ending the visitor season at the end of September would be another savings. No matter what day, we would find a way to be there for school groups.

The Lease for Nathan Hale Schoolhouse with the City of New London is a piece of old business that needs to be finished. I am hoping to meet with Mayor Finizio or Laura Natusch in the near future to be updated in order to move forward. April 2014 correspondence shows that we were at the final details.

Another matter of unfinished business is the Thames River Heritage Park. Briefly, this a collection of independent heritage institutions, sites, and historic districts. I believe this is similar to the Lebanon Consortium, but on a bigger scale. Maybe we should consider some involvement in this project. In a few years the National Coast Guard Museum will be at our front door, what a shame if we miss out. As of right now there are no fees involved that would stop us from belonging. I am trying to make contact with Penny Parsekian, Development, Communications & Special Projects, Avery-Copp House, to be briefed on where we stand. They made contact with us on July 24, 2014 asking for a letter of support, somehow this fell through the cracks. We are possibly beyond that phase.

Last item; The Committee feels that there should be more participation from the Membership by volunteering as Docents. This would allow us to lower our expenses and put our money to better use. The plan to pay your dues for volunteering at least four times is still in effect. Last year only 8 SAR members took advantage of this, while there were 14 DAR ladies that helped out.

Respectfully submitted,
David Packard
CTSSAR Real Property Steward

Update emails!

With the continuing increase in the cost of postage and mailing supplies, we are starting to depend more and more on emailing our compatriots. If we don't have your email, please send an email to DPerkins8@att.net with your name and NSSAR number. If you move, change your phone numbers, etc you can send those updates to DPerkins8@att.net also.
The Connecticut Line had its annual meeting, “In honor and remembrance of General George Washington's Birthday” at J. Timothy's Taverne, Plainville on Saturday February 7, 2015. Invocation was given by Lee Gerlander and the Pledge of Allegiance by State President, Robert Rivard. In attendance was Douglas Wood, NSSAR Vice-President General, New England District. There were 25 color guardsmen and camp followers present for the meeting, including members of the Putnam, Hale, and Wolcott detachments. For 2015, the following officers were elected, Colonel - Todd Gerlander (Putnam), Lieutenant-Colonel - David Perkins (Wolcott), Major - Bruce Cunard (Hale), and Adjutant - Russell Wirtalla (Putnam)

For 2015, the Connecticut Line CTSSAR Campaign Calendar includes currently 21 events running through to December. Five of these dates are considered National Color Guard events, and three of these will be in Connecticut with “Let Freedom Ring” on July 4th in Litchfield, “Battle of Groton Heights” on September 6th in Groton and New London, and lastly “Wreaths Across America” on December 12 in Bantam and other sites across the state.

Dear Compatriots,

Let me start by asking you to remember the birthday of General George Washington on February 22, 2015. I would like to update you on the activities of the CTSSAR since I sent you my letter on October 15, 2014. At the November 15, 2014 meeting the Board of Managers (BOM) filled all officer vacancies created as a result of several resignations and the resultant shifting of officers to fill those positions. See the list of officers elsewhere in this newsletter. The BOM also filled many vacant positions on committees, including several chair positions. They approved the creation of two new ad hoc committees, one on real property oversight and another on insurance.

Since that meeting, I have been working with several committee chairs to continue to fill positions on committees. We are always looking for committee volunteers. If you would like to obtain lists of the committee members and descriptions or have an interest in serving on a committee please contact me or any Board member.

In this continuing period of transition for the CTSSAR, we continue to move forward in many areas such as color guard events, real property operation and maintenance, youth awards, and the capital campaign. (I apologize to those I have not listed here.) I thank you all for your continued support.

Finally, I was privileged to help present the CTSSAR Flag Award to Sikorsky in December. There is an article on the ceremony in this issue.

Patriotically,
Robert W. Rivard, President
CTSSAR