Following the business portion of the meeting, new state officer elections were held and compatriot Damien M. Cregeau was elected as your newest State President for 2018-2019.

For his service to the Connecticut SAR for the last 3-years as our State President. Ethan Stewart was presented the Patriot medal, the highest award that the state can award.

Other awards presented: Silver Roger Sherman medal to State Secretary Paul Selnau; Meritorious Service medal to Real Property Steward David Packard; Patriot Grave Marking medals were presented to State 1st VP Tyler Smith and Real Property Steward David Packard.

President Cregeau had the honor of swearing-in five new compatriots to the Connecticut SAR and presented each with their SAR membership rosette.

The highlight of the business meeting was the presentation by outgoing State President Ethan Stewart of the State’s 1st Challenge Coin to several of the State Officers as gifts for their service to the State President and the Society. The rest of the 50 coins were purchased by the members present at a cost of $10 per coin. An additional 150 coins have since been ordered and are available for sale. Please contact Ethan Stewart for information at sarethan@optonline.net

For her service to the Connecticut SAR. Out-going State President Ethan Stewart recognized Barbara Stewart for all her support for the last 3-years with the SAR Martha Washington medal and certificate.

Annual Youth Awards
Eagle Scout and JROTC
Following the reading of their essays, each was recognized with a medal and certificate along with a check for $500 from the state society.
For the twenty second year in a row, members of the Connecticut Line participated in the commemorative exercises in Charlestown, Massachusetts on Sunday June 17th along with members of the NHSSAR and MASSAR Color Guards. Following a 10:00 am memorial service at the Church of St. Frances de Sales, we paraded up Bunker Hill Street to the Bunker Hill Monument grounds located on Breeds Hill, where the annual commemorative exercises are held promptly at 11:00 am. Prior to the ceremony starting, the NPS performed a Safety Inspection and handed out three rounds to each man with a musket, just like in 1775, ammunition was once again in short supply! The color guard from the USS Constitution “Old Ironsides” presented the colors, and then greetings from the Commander of the USS Constitution, National Park Service, Boston City Council, Massachusetts State Senate and House, British General Consul of Boston, French Deputy Consul-General of Boston and several others.

At the conclusion of all the greetings and songs we closed the ceremony with a three-volley musket salute after a wreath laying at the foot of the statue of Col. William Prescott, one of the many heroes of that day. Additional SAR society wreaths were placed at the Connecticut and New Hampshire gates to commemorate the men who fought at the battle from those states. Following the day’s events, the Connecticut Line had lunch at Warren Tavern before starting our journey home! For any color guardsmen interested in participating at Bunker Hill, remember that it is always on June 17th! Huzzah!

For additional pictures, program and links see www.connecticursar.org

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Monday May 28th – Naugatuck and Litchfield Memorial Day Parades

One of the largest Memorial Day parades in the state is held in the town of Naugatuck, an old mill town along the Naugatuck River. For the first time, members of the Connecticut Line along with a detachment of Rogers Rangers were the lead unit for the second of four divisions. The crowds were large and loud, with great applause with every musket volley we fired. By the end of the two-mile parade route we had emptied our cartridge boxes, of over 25 rounds per man. Following the parade, the host organization provided free food and drink to all the participants. The Connecticut Line received $300 donation from the event organizers, which be used to offset the cost of our color guard insurance.

At the same time, a second detachment of The Connecticut Line was marching and firing in the Litchfield Memorial Day parade where we have participated as a unit for many many years.
Saturday June 16th – Patriot Grave Marking
Candy Stone-Gagne found her fifth great-grandfather’s gravesite in 2002 in the Bruce Cemetery in Pomfret. Her relative, Capt. Albemarle Stone, had joined the Continental Army at the age of 15. On Saturday June 16th orchestrated a Daughters of the American Revolution-sanctioned grave-marking ceremony for the mariner from Pomfret.

Albemarle Stone was born in Pomfret on Nov. 11, 1762, and at 15 he joined the Revolutionary Army as a private. He initially enlisted to serve from April 1778 to April 1779. Stone was among those who served at the Battle of Rhode Island. After being discharged, he was twice drafted back into service in the ensuing war with Britain.

After returning briefly to Pomfret, Stone reenlisted as a marine on the U.S.S. Deane, a continental frigate, in September of 1781 and served until July of the following year when he was again discharged. He returned again to Pomfret, where he became a farmer and served as a captain in the town’s militia company. State Rep. Pat Boyd, delivered a direct posthumous citation from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy addressed to Stone. CTSSAR State President Damien Cregeau, Capt. Nathan Hale Branch President Stephen Taylor along with three color guardsmen provided an SAR color guard for this event.

Tuesday June 14 – Blue Star Memorial Commemorations in Bridgewater & Roxbury
The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club hosted the two dedication ceremonies. The Blue Star Memorial program was started in 1944 when a garden club in New Jersey honored members of the U.S. Armed Forces by creating a memorial sign decorated with a blue star, a symbol often displayed on homes where sons and daughters were away at war. The Federated Garden Clubs adopted the program in 1945 and began a Blue Star Highway system that now covers thousands of miles across all 50 states. Memorial Markers and By-Way Markers were added to the Highway Markers, to be used at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veteran’s facilities and gardens. Bridgewater’s new Memorial Marker is located in front of the Capt. Burnham Homestead on Main Street.

A color guard was provided at both events by David Perkins, Bill Baldwin and Mike Chuckta, members of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Special guests included Andrea Little, National Garden Clubs Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker chairman.

During the months of May and June, the Connecticut SAR Property Steward, Dave Packard is busy with student groups from the area schools visiting the three museums owned and operated by the Connecticut SAR. They are the Nathan Hale School houses in East Haddam and New London, and the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull War Office in Lebanon. In total there were eight visits with about 50 in each group. The visits usually include topics on early American schooling, life as a militia soldier and when available with ladies from the local DAR chapters, the life of young ladies during colonial times. In addition to Dave Packard, color guardsmen Derek Brockhoff, William Baldwin and Dave Perkins have also lent a hand with the students, demonstrating how colonial militia dress, eat, slept and of course used their muskets, usually ending a session with a musket volley to the delight of the group.
State President’s Report—Damien Mott Cregeau

These are exciting times for our CTSSAR. We had a record turnout of over 150 people at the Gen. David Humphreys Branch’s annual celebration of our Day of Independence at Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven. Past President Ethan Stewart’s new challenge coins for our CTSSAR of our Gov. Trumbull War Office in Lebanon are extremely popular, and a new batch has already been ordered. Ethan and his wife, Barbara, continue to make improvements to the patriot graves in Stratford, while the Gov. Oliver Wolcott Branch once again hosted scores of public for the graveside ceremonies of Wolcott as well as Major Benjamin Tallmadge in Litchfield before co-hosting their annual, popular “Let Freedom Ring” ceremony on Litchfield green.

As a professional historian serving as your state president, I am striving for increased compatriot and public awareness of our great patriot sites around the Nutmeg State. I gave a tour to the CTDAR’s Roger Sherman Chapter and the CTCAR of the various patriot graves at Grove Street Cemetery - not just Signer Roger Sherman as well as Gen. David Humphreys, but also Amos Doolittle, “Connecticut’s Paul Revere,” Pierpont Edwards, and Mary Clap Wooster, widow of Gen. David Wooster.

I attended the plaque dedication ceremony of the Meigs Raid on the scenic shore of Long Island Sound near Sachem’s Head in Guilford on Saturday, August 18th. This was the site of Col. Return Jonathan Meigs and his soldiers’ step-off point for their incredible raid on British supplies at Sag Harbor, Long Island in May of 1777. Ninety British soldiers were captured, yet not one patriot soldier was killed or even wounded in the surprise attack that was reprisal for the British raid on Fairfield County only weeks earlier, culminating in the death of Maj. Gen. David Wooster and the Battle of Ridgefield.

Our last state meeting was held 9/2 at the Shaw Mansion in New London, where General Washington visited in the spring of 1776 and survived the burning of New London by traitor Benedict Arnold in his raid on September 6th, 1781. There is no better historic spot to meet before we head over to Groton for the annual ceremonies at the grave of Col. William Ledyard (the patriot leader of militia stationed at Ft. Griswold) and the monument at Fort Griswold, “the Alamo of the Revolution.”

September 29th we will gather at the grave of General Jedediah Huntington at 10:30 am to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his death in 1818 and his important patriot leader contributions. Following lunch and tours at our house, the General Huntington House, we’ll have an afternoon ceremony at the grave of General Israel Putnam in Brooklyn, CT to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his birthday. Interestingly, Putnam was the major general and Huntington the brigadier general at the historic site we’ll commemorate on Saturday, November 3rd: the Putnam Park in Redding. This is a state park protecting the site of the winter encampment of Continental Army troops 240 years ago this fall. This is why we’ll enjoy a visit to and tour of Putnam Park as well as a luncheon meeting at a historic restaurant in Redding.

History is very much alive for our Connecticut SAR!

Patriotically,

Damien M. Cregeau

Calendar:  
- All Member Meeting  Nov 2, 2018  The Connecticut Line  Feb 16, 2019  
- Board of Managers  Feb 23, 2019  New England Dist. Meeting  Mar 23, 2019  
- Annual State Meeting  Apr 27, 2019

NSSAR Alexander Hamilton Award at U.S. Coast Guard Academy on May 16th, 2018

Cadet Sarah Chen graduated with a major in government. She is interested in intelligence, so her capstone project was a research paper following her visit to Iceland and visits to Washington D.C. to the embassies of Iceland, Finland and Denmark. Her paper focused on increasing Chinese interests in Scandinavia, especially Iceland. She will be going to Mississippi first, where her new cutter is currently completing construction. They will sail there via the Panama Canal for stationing at the USCG’s station in Oahu as part of their Hawaii Sector. Left to Right, Rear Admiral Rendon, Cadet Sarah Chen, and CTSSAR President Damien M. Cregeau.