



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

Chairman
Christian Sauer

Vice-Chairman
John Takach

Secretary
Rhonda Villanova

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187



Members
Joe Boucher
Thomas Brophy
Jacob Cawthorn
Christian Cuthbert
Paul Fiasconaro
Sara Landon
John O'Shaughnessy
Cheryl Samborski
Student Representative
Kashish Koul
Aarush Kumar
Logan Takach

September 23, 2026

Present: Chris Sauer, John Takach, Cheryl Samborski, Paul Fiasconaro, Rhonda Villanova, and Thomas Brophy

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chris Sauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

No minutes were submitted from last meeting due to low turnout.

Old Business:

Flag Pole Installation - The new Flag Pole was installed, both flags are up – the lights are not connected yet so the flags are taken down at night. John Streiber is taking care of the electrical connections.

America 250 – October 3rd, the event runs from 1:00 to 6:00p.m. Vendors and participants have been notified of setup time. Notices will be on the town website and social media. The gazebo will be the focal point of speeches and musical performances. The library will be open their usual Saturday hours. The Nellie McKnight Museum will be open. The parade starts at 2:00 p.m., starting from Berr Avenue, coming down Main Street, down to the Department of Public Works. The Governor's Foot Guard, Color Guard and Horse Guard will be at or near the front of the parade. The Fife and Drum Corps, the Ellington High School Marching Band will provide music along the parade route, along with old cars escorting dignitaries. First Selectman, Laurie Burstein, is scheduled to make a short speech, along with Senator Jeff Gordon. We are waiting for confirmation on a few others, including the Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas. There will be a reading of the body of the Declaration of Independence, singing of the National Anthem, a Scavenger Hunt with ten different activities, and about 10 food vendors with a variety of food and desserts. Small businesses, some town departments, and a few military recruiters will have booths as well.

Wreaths Across America update – We currently only have 111 wreaths ordered. This is about 200 less than we had last year at this time. The ceremony is December 19th. Chris Sauer and John Takach discussed getting the signs out earlier, deciding on October 10th. Our signs are getting a little worn. The committee will look into getting new signs next year. Paul Fiasconaro stated there are WAA signs

up at the Big-E. The committee will look into that. Letters to businesses for wreath sponsorship may be ready to sign at the town office. John Takach or Chris Sauer will sign them so they can be sent.

New Business:

Rededication Ceremony for the POW/MIA monument – The committee determined Saturday, October 17, 2026, at noon would be a good day to rededicate the POW/MIA monument. Invitations will go out to the American Legion, VFW, the Board of Selectmen, Rebecca Stack, and the Scout troops since the monument was originally an Eagle Scout project. The notice of the ceremony can be shared on the town website and social media.

America 250 Booth - The Patriotic Committee will have a booth advertising the Wreaths Across America ceremony and asking for sponsors for wreaths. The committee will also be looking to add a couple new members by the end of the year.

Motion to adjourn: Samborski 1st, Fiasconaro 2nd; all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room unless notified otherwise.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Villanova
AHPC Secretary

