



### SAR Pledge

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution  
Who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith  
in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge to  
defend them against every foe.

### SAR Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave  
us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation  
of Free Men.

**Scan to learn more about  
The Liberty Tree**



**General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter**  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Chartered October 21, 1975



## **Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony**

**October 25, 2025 • 10:30am**  
**Connie Link Amphitheatre and Constitution Trail**  
621 S. Linden St. • Normal, Illinois

**Illinois State Society  
And  
National Society  
Sons of the American Revolution**



*The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War Patriots  
by promoting Patriotism, serving our communities, and educating  
and inspiring future Generations about the founding Principles of our Country.*

## Liberty Tree Dedication Program

Welcome & Opening Remarks.....	Jay Cummins, President, GJB Chapter
Invocation .....	Chaplain Rev. Ray Owens
Posting the Colors.....	ISU ROTC Redbird Battalion Color Guard
National Anthem .....	Gabriel Myers
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Steve Kern
SAR Pledge * .....	Michael Campagnolo, Vice President General, Great Lakes District, National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Introductions/Recognitions .....	Jay Cummins
of Guests/Dignitaries	
The Liberty Tree Story.....	Dale Simpson, GJB Chapter Liberty Tree Project Coordinator
Greetings & Proclamation .....	Karyn Smith, Normal Town Council
Greetings.....	Michael J. Elston, President General, National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Dedication & Benediction .....	Rev. Ray Owens
SAR Recessional * .....	Randy Boyd
'Taps' .....	Gabriel Myers
Retiring the Colors .....	ISU ROTC Color Guard
Mulching Ceremony.....	Jay Cummins

\* See back page for text



### About the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter

The General Joseph Bartholomew (GJB) chapter was founded through the efforts of patriotic, civic-minded individuals such as Dr. Robert Bone who served as president of Illinois State University from 1956 to 1967, and Mr. William "Bill" Anderson who served as McLean County Coroner from 1972 to 1992.

For half a century, the GJB chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has endeavored to *honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.* We have sought to impact our community through Patriot grave markings, Eagle Scout awards, and scholarships for High School seniors, Flag Day awards, Public Service recognitions, Constitution Day education and activities with a special emphasis on student recognition. Since 2000, we have recognized and honored over 500 high school students with the Outstanding Good Citizenship SAR Award and awarded over \$32,000 in scholarships.

If you are interested in learning more about our Mission or becoming a member, please contact us on our website at [GJBSAR.ORG](http://GJBSAR.ORG).



## THE LIBERTY TREE

In honor of the United States of America's 250th Anniversary in 2026, the Sons of the American Revolution planted this Princeton Elm (Liberty Tree).

The Liberty Tree (1646–1775) was a famous elm tree that stood in Boston near Boston Common, in the years before the American Revolution. In 1765, colonists in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree. The tree became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of Britain over the American Colonies.

Donated by the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter  
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois  
June 2025



### Acknowledgments

The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter Sons of the American Revolution would like to thank everyone for coming today and extend a thank-you to everyone who played a part in our SAR Liberty Tree program. We especially want to thank those listed below for your support in making this a successful and memorable event:

President General **Michael J. Elston**, National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR)

**Ron Redner**, NSSAR Liberty Tree Project Chairman

Vice President General **Michael Campagnolo**, NSSAR Great Lakes District

Town of Normal Mayor **Chris Koos** – Thank you for your ongoing support of the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Town of Normal Trustee and Council member **Karyn Smith**

Town of Normal Parks and Recreation Department for their support and assistance with the project: **Director Doug Damery, Assistant Director Gene Kotlinski, Park Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Bain**

**Troop 920 W. D. Boyce Council** – "50 Flags Display"

**ISU ROTC Redbird Battalion Color Guard**  
**SAR Color Guard units from Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin**

Trumpet soloist – **Gabriel Myers**, music instructor at Chiddix Jr. High School and Grove Elementary School, McLean County Unit District No. 5

**Friends of the Constitution Trail** (constitutiontrail.org)