



UPDATE NO. 9

MAY 23, 2017



# POTTER CO. VETERANS GRAVESTONE RESTORATION PROJECT

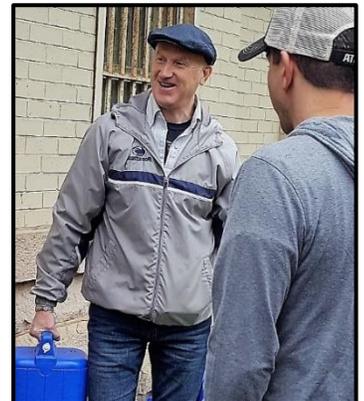
## REPORT FROM THE POTTER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE

There's plenty to report since our successful May 10 launch at the Eulalia Cemetery:

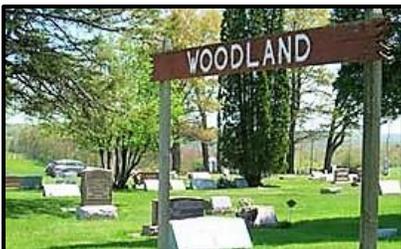


**Local project covered by National Public Radio.** A feature about the Potter County Veterans Gravestone Restoration Program is scheduled to air Monday on National Public Radio, as part of special Memorial Day programming produced by NPR affiliate WUSF of Tampa, Fla. The program will also be archived on the WUSF website ([wusf.usf.edu](http://wusf.usf.edu)), along with pictures from a recent kickoff event at the Eulalia Cemetery in Coudersport. Reporter Cathleen Carter interviewed the Potter County Veterans Service Committee. Her primary focus is on the work of Floridian Andrew Lumish, known as the "good cemeterian," who began restoring military veterans' gravestones as a hobby. Potter County's committee reached out to Lumish and he agreed to serve as an advisor for what is apparently the first countywide veterans' grave marker restoration project in the country. For more information on the local program, visit the Facebook page, Military Veterans of Potter County.

**Eulalia Cemetery moving forward.** Now that the Eulalia Cemetery is on board as the first partner for the Potter County Veterans Gravestone Restoration Project, cemetery officers are looking to develop a plan to continue the momentum by soliciting and organizing volunteers and assigning responsibilities. Gravestone cleaning kits have been provided by the Potter County Veterans Service Committee and are stored at the cemetery. Those interested in joining in volunteering to work on the individual stones should contact Eulalia Cemetery board president Steve Erway ([steven.erway@northwest.com](mailto:steven.erway@northwest.com)). Steve is shown here organizing the volunteers who turned out for the May 10 project launch and work session.



**Thank you, Northern Potter students!** Northern Potter High School's media communications class has joined the cause. The students have created a pamphlet and brief video that details proper techniques for cleaning grave markers, under the direction of School Counselor Kevin Roessner. It will be included in the kits that our committee is preparing for distribution to cemetery caretakers and volunteers in the coming weeks.



**Woodland, other cemeteries come aboard.** Potter County Veterans Services Director Bill Simpson recently met with caretakers of the Woodland Cemetery in Hebron Township. After his presentation, Woodland signed on to participate in the countywide program. Our committee has also provided details for a cemetery manager in Fillmore, N.Y., who plans to use our project as a model. Other cemetery caretakers around Potter County are also interested in participating.

**So, what's next?** Our committee is reviewing what we've learned from the Eulalia Cemetery pilot project and developing a plan to engage with the managers of other cemeteries across Potter County and advance our mission. Suggestions for additions to the mailing list for these updates are welcome. Those interested in receiving future updates, sharing suggestions, or volunteering in any capacity should contact Dawn Wooster at [dwooster@pottercountypa.net](mailto:dwooster@pottercountypa.net) or 814-274-8290, ext. 207.