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STAR JOURNAL PHOTO BY MARY ANN DOYLE

Local and national representatives were at the Union Grove Cemetery in Cassian to determine if it would be a suitable site for a national veterans cemetery. Those on hand included (from left) Gene Rio, Denny Thompson and Gail Winnie, Town of Cassian supervisors; Chuck Bolen, construction manager; Glenn Madderom, National Cemetery administration development director; Jeff Leiken, realty specialist for the VA; Tom Koerting, an engineer for the Memorial Service Administration; Tammy Walters, veteran affairs director for Oneida County; Paul Rau, realty specialist with the office of construction and facilities; Marian Lewandowski, director of Bureau of Cemetery and Memorial services; and Rick Smith, organizer of the annual Memorial Day service held at Union Grove Cemetery.

## National veterans cemetery under consideration in Oneida County

By *MARY ANN DOYLE*  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Federal Veteran Affairs (VA) personnel were in the Rhinelander area last Thursday morning to evaluate the possibility of establishing a national veterans cemetery near the Union Grove Cemetery in Cassian.

Last year, the VA put out word they were looking for land to purchase to create national cemeteries in eight regions of the United States.

"The VA is committed to improving service to veterans in rural areas," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki. "Through an innovative partnership with existing cemeteries, we will be able to ensure burial for veterans in more locations that meet the high standards of national shrines."

Under this rural initiative plan, the VA wants to build small national veteran burial grounds within existing public or private

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