



Mohawk Correctional Facility: Hamil Cemetery Sign October 1, 2014

Hamil Cemetery is a small cemetery located on the grounds of Mohawk Correctional Facility (Oneida County). The cemetery, maintained by local veterans, is extremely old as the last burial appears to have occurred in 1908. Facility maintenance carpenter, James Pappa, with his team of inmate workers set out to restore the sign while maintaining its original character. The construction of the sign took three months, and was a collaboration of skills between the three inmates supervised by Mr. Pappa. The new sign is beautiful and the military medallions are hand carved and painted. Mohawk Superintendent Gonyea also had the pleasure of speaking with WWII veterans that stopped to admire the sign. The project was featured in the [Rome Sentinel](#) as well.



The old Hamil Cemetery sign.



Facility Maintenance Carpenter James Pappa along with the inmate work crew.

Mohawk Correctional Facility: Essay Contest

In other news, Mohawk Correctional Facility General Library completed its most recent essay contest centered around the question: "If you could write a letter to yourself 10 years ago what would you say?". Inmates were encouraged to analyze their life and think about what advice they would want to give themselves ten years ago. Teachers at Mohawk collaborated with the Senior Librarian to judge the entries. First, second and third places were awarded with inmates choosing writing/drawing supplies as prizes. Senior Librarian James Kallies commented: "I was very impressed with the 44 entries we received. There was a great amount of diversity and creativity displayed and I feel the topic really resonated with the inmate population." Click [here](#) to read summaries from the top three finishers.