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# Expanding and improving Middletown Veterans Cemetery to honor those who served

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MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (WTNH) — As the final resting place for thousands of heroes, the Middletown [Veterans](#) Cemetery is supposed to evoke strong feelings. But the feelings were not always so good.

It took years of work, first cleaning out the trees and shrubs that had overgrown the cemetery, then putting grave stones right. A yearly effort of volunteer arborists called “Saluting Branches” helped with that.

“You know, just as I was pulling in here this morning, I got a chill up my spine in a good way,” Commissioner Thomas Saadi, Department of Veterans Affairs told News 8.

Daniel Neagle of Lawrence Brunoli Inc. spoke about the difficulties in the construction: “Well, the contours of the ground were very uneven, and, over time, the headstones, a lot of them had settled and caused to be out of alignment.”

That’s where Dan’s employer, contractor Lawrence Brunoli stepped in. It’s tough work, navigating the long, narrow rows of headstones to make sure they stand in perfect, military precision.

“We would remove the stones and re-establish the stone base and realign them and