



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

## News Release

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*Minneapolis City Goals:* A Safe Place to Call Home □ Jobs & Economic Vitality □ Eco-Focused □ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives □ Many People, One Minneapolis □ A City That Works

# Tour of Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Slated for Memorial Day

*Cemetery honors pioneers and immigrants, military veterans of the War of 1812 to World War I, and Minneapolis' early African-American community*

May 25, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) —The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, the City of Minneapolis, Preserve Minneapolis, and Friends of the Cemetery are offering a tour of the historic Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, located at 2925 Cedar Ave. S, Minneapolis, on Monday, May 31, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The tour begins at the cemetery office and will be lead by Sue Hunter-Weir. A seated, 45 minute talking tour, will be followed by an optional 1- hour walking tour. The tour is free, however, space is limited. Arrive 15 minutes early to register.

Pass through the gates and explore Minneapolis' oldest cemetery. This cemetery is the final resting place of many who shaped the city's history including territorial pioneers—Charles Christmas, Edwin Hedderly, and Philander Prescott—military veterans who fought in wars ranging from the War of 1812 to World War I, and members of Minneapolis' early African-American community. Several thousand immigrants, primarily from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, are also buried here, and over half of the cemetery's 20,000 residents are children.

### **List of National Historic Places**

The cemetery is one of the few in the U.S. (and the only one in Minnesota) listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It received its historic designation for the significance of the contributions of those buried in the cemetery and for its distinctive architectural features such as the caretaker's cottage (1871) and the flag pole, fence, gates, and monuments to territorial women and military veterans (1920s and 30s).

### **How you can help maintain this landmark**

The 1928 steel fence, which was built to pay tribute to Minnesota pioneers and soldiers buried at the cemetery, will be replaced if a rehabilitation project is not completed in the upcoming years. The fence measures 1,953 linear feet and contains 3,510 pickets and is the best protection against vandalism. A successful *Adopt-a Picket* fundraiser by the Friends of the Cemetery will help complete a full restoration of the original historic fence. The cost of adopting a picket is \$30 and donors will receive a limited-edition certificate of contribution. More information can be found at [www.friendsofthecemetery.org](http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org).

The fence restoration project is estimated to cost \$750,000. The City of Minneapolis, through net bond funds, has appropriated \$250,000, and the Minnesota Historical Society, through the State Capital Projects Grant-in-Aid County and Local Preservation program, has awarded the City of Minneapolis a grant in the amount of \$100,000.

### **More on the City's 2010 Summer Walking Tours**

Enjoy a walking tour of Minneapolis' history this summer. The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, and Preserve Minneapolis will offer a series of tours of historic sites throughout Minneapolis. Expert guides will lead 21 tours ranging from Minneapolis cultural gathering places and residential neighborhoods, to bustling commercial and industrial areas, to the theaters of Hennepin Avenue and remnants of the city's once extensive streetcar system. Tour information can be found at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc)

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