
News Release

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For Immediate Release

Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser to raise \$100,000 for Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

A \$30 contribution will help restore steel and limestone pillar fence at this city landmark

August 11, 2009 (Minneapolis)—[Friends of the Cemetery](#), a nonprofit and all-volunteer organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of [Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery](#) (2925 Cedar Avenue South), announces the kickoff of the *Adopt-A-Picket* fundraiser. The goal of the fundraiser is to raise \$100,000 for the restoration of the prominent steel and limestone pillar fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, established in 1853, is the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis. It is also the only cemetery in Minnesota that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2008, to raise awareness of the challenges of maintaining this landmark, the [Preservation Alliance of Minnesota](#) placed the cemetery on its "[Ten Most Endangered Historic Places List](#)." Today, the cemetery is in danger of having the 1928 decorative steel fence, which was built to pay tribute to Minnesota pioneers and soldiers buried at the cemetery replaced, if a rehabilitation project is not completed in the upcoming years.

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. A successful *Adopt-a-Picket* fundraiser would help the stakeholders involved come closer to completing a full restoration of the original historic fence.

Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser Details: The steel fence is 1,953 linear feet and contains 3,510 pickets. Individuals and organizations are able to adopt a picket for \$30 to help with the fence restoration project. Individuals and organizations can also adopt entire sections of the fence. To track progress of the fundraiser and to learn more about the *Adopt-a-Picket* program please visit the Friends of the Cemetery website: <http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org/>.

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