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GOVERNOR TIM PAWLENTY PROCLAIMS JANUARY 2010 AS BELL MORTGAGE MONTH

The Governor's high honor recognizes the longevity and rich history of Minnesota's oldest mortgage-banking company

MINNEAPOLIS, MN- Governor Tim Pawlenty and the State of Minnesota have recognized Minneapolis-based Bell Mortgage for its ongoing contributions to and longstanding reputation in the state. Bell Mortgage is Minnesota's oldest and largest privately-owned mortgage-banking company. This year marks the 130th anniversary for Bell Mortgage, which is also one of the oldest businesses operating in Minnesota. "We're honored Governor Pawlenty has proclaimed January 2010 as Bell Mortgage Month," says Gary Kirt, Owner and CEO of Bell Mortgage. "For 130 years we've built our reputation on attracting and retaining the best people in the business. We've been fortunate enough to let the credibility and continuity of our people and their relationships market our products for us," adds Kirt. "Consequently, Bell has quietly become the largest privately-owned mortgage company in the region."

The proclamation signed by both Governor Pawlenty and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie details the history of Bell Mortgage which dates back to 1880 when the company's founder, David C. Bell began originating mortgages in Minnesota and selling them to banks on the East coast. The first mortgage bond from the David C. Bell Company was drawn up in 1880 for the sum of \$3,500.

The David C. Bell Investment Company continued to flourish, weathering The Great Depression, two World Wars and embracing 100 years of local development before Gary Kirt purchased the company in 1980. Since then, Bell Mortgage has become known as one of the most innovative and credible lenders in the nation. This reputation is reflected by Bell Mortgage's motto which proudly states; "In our third century and still ahead of our time." Recognition from Governor Pawlenty highlights the entrepreneurial spirit of David C. Bell 130 years ago which continues on in the talented team of individuals who make up Bell Mortgage today.

A commitment to community spanning three centuries, an ever expanding team of top mortgage professionals, the constant pursuit of cutting-edge technology, the best combination of products, prices and service, all backed by the experience and dedication of the largest and oldest private mortgage company in Minnesota- that's Bell Mortgage and has been for 130 years. Based in Minneapolis, Bell Mortgage has helped more than 500,000 families and individuals with their home mortgage needs.

For more information on Bell Mortgage, log on to www.bellmortgage.com.

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