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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism

*Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh
Member William Fischhaber named Fraternal MVP.*

OAK BROOK, IL, March 10, 2008 – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize William “Bill” H. Fischhaber—a member of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU), District #510, Toledo, Ohio—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of March 10, 2008. Fraternal MVPs are “Fraternalists-in-Action” who volunteer their time and energy to strengthen their communities through participation in local lodge activities and other charitable endeavors.

“The NFCA wishes to salute those individuals as true fraternalists,” said NFCA Chair of the Board Katharine E. Rounthwaite. “As a Fraternal MVP, Bill Fischhaber embodies the heart of fraternalism through his hard work, dedication and generosity.”

Before retirement, Fischhaber was a teacher in special education at Clay High School. Special education was a field Fischhaber fit into very comfortably. Fischhaber is a very friendly person and has the patience and depth of mind to understand and work with the exceptional students. Many students Fischhaber had in class continue to visit him. No doubt this is due to the warmth and compassion he gave to each student. Fischhaber’s relationship with children dates back to when he was live-in Boy’s Counselor at the former Lutheran Orphan’s Home.

Fischhaber does volunteer work for several organizations:

- Oregon Jerusalem Historical Society (OJHS) – Past President
- Mobile Meals of Toledo – meal deliveries
- St. Charles Hospital – Ombudsman in emergency room
- Greater Beneficial Union of Toledo – ground maintenance
- The Oregonian Club – Oregon Fest/scholarship
- The Toledo Swiss Society – Scholarship Committee
- German American Festival Committee – Ground set up and cooking for Annual Festival
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Long time active member. Past President of Lutheran Brotherhood, former usher, summer camp, communion activities and St. Paul's representative to The Luther Home of Mercy in Williston, Ohio.

Though not in title, Fischhaber is the lodge's buildings and grounds coordinator and keeper.

Fischhaber has bridged many activities to help the Society operate smoothly functions especially helpful during the change of officers and presidents.

Fischhaber is a silent worker. He is generous and allots time to the organizations of which he is a member. Of greatest importance, Fischhaber has given much of his free time to OJHS.

Fischhaber is greatly responsible for many of the improvements at the Historic Brandville School House complex. He was a prime moving force that centralized the Historical Museum and the Society's office at the Brandville Site – very instrumental in the rehabilitation of the wooden one room Portable School House and the design and construction of the Carriage House. If

Fischhaber is not at home, there is a good chance that you can find him at Brandville – working alone, with no one pushing him or telling him of all the work that has to be done. He does many tasks at Brandville without fanfare or awareness of any others.

Fraternal MVPs are part of the NFCA's Fraternalists-in-Action program, which recognizes individuals whose unique stories best represent 21st Century fraternalism. These fraternalists demonstrate exceptional compassion and vision through their volunteer activities.

About the Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh

The Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU) was founded on April 13, 1892, by German immigrants that settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of its formation was to provide financial security, fraternalism and social activities to its members.

Today, GBU offers a wide variety of life insurance products, retirement savings programs and fraternal benefits to its members. GBU promotes German cultural activities and events, and encourages community and patriotic involvement. Charitable, recreational and social activities are developed and offered for the entire family. GBU encourages its members to perform charitable acts for their fellow members and communities. For more information, visit www.gbu.org.

About the NFCA

The 122-year-old NFCA unites 73 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million fraternalists in 37,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member-volunteer networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. Combined, the NFCA's member-societies maintain more than \$329 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2006 alone, contributed almost \$410 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered nearly 95 million hours for community-service projects. These statistics demonstrate the commitment that fraternalists make to those in need and exemplify the true meaning of the NFCA signature phrase: *Joining Hands to Touch Lives*. For more information, visit the NFCA's Web site at www.nfcenet.org.

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