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## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

### **NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism** *Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh* *Member Edith Kuplent named Fraternal MVP.*

**OAK BROOK, IL, April 21, 2008** – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize Edith Kuplent—a member of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU), District #821, Sterling Heights, Michigan—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of April 21, 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, Edith Kuplent embodies the heart of fraternalism through her hard work, dedication and generosity.”

For 50 years and counting, Kuplent has been singing the fraternal spirit. Through her involvement with the GBU Saxonia-Rheingold chorus, Kuplent has performed not only for the pleasure of others, but also performs to raise the spirits of those less fortunate. Serving as Treasurer for 25 years and President for the past 24 years, Kuplent has organized countless concert tours for the choir to sing, and not just locally, but several trips to Germany as well. Whether singing to raise funds for a local charity or performing for retirement homes and shut-ins, Kuplent has always been willing to volunteer her time.

Since its 1999 charter date, Kuplent also has served as President of GBU District #821 in Sterling Heights, Mich. It is under her leadership that District #821 brings fraternalism to their local community. Annual fundraising events are held with proceeds donated to local food pantries, as well as organizing community beautification projects.

On a personal level, Kuplent makes visits to the elderly and those who are bed-ridden. A retired real estate agent, Kuplent enjoys time spent with her two daughters and three grandsons.

Kuplent's dedication to GBU along with her loyalty to the German culture and her service to the community, make Edith Kuplent a most worthy "fraternalist-in-action."

Fraternal MVPs are part of the NFCA's Fraternalists-in-Action program, which recognizes individuals whose unique stories best represent 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.nfcenet.org).

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