

**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL
CONGRESS
OF AMERICA**



**JOINING HANDS
TO TOUCH LIVES**

The Association of America's
Fraternal Benefit Societies

Contact: Rose Riccetti
630-522-6322, ext. 114
rriccetti@nfcenet.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism

*Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh
Member Rex Powers named Fraternal MVP.*

OAK BROOK, IL, March 5, 2007 – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize Rex Powers—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 5, 2007. 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 Janice U. Whipple. “As a Fraternal MVP, Rex Powers embodies the heart of fraternalism through his hard work, dedication and generosity.”

Powers has been a member of GBU’s District #510 since 1989. For more than 20 years, Powers has been delivering meals and providing fellowship to local shut-ins as a volunteer and former Board Member for Mobile Meals of Toledo. For more than 30 years, Powers also has been helping others as a volunteer in the St. Charles Hospital, Ombudsman Emergency Room Program.

Powers graduated with a B.S. degree from Toledo University and a graduate degree from Ohio State University. After his schooling, he worked as a Chemist-Bacteriologist for the City of Toledo in the Water Department. Ten years later, he took the position of Chemist Superintendent at the City of Oregon Water Department and in 1990 retired as the Oregon Commissioner of Water and Wastewater Treatment. Since his retirement, Powers has been working as a “happy volunteer.”

As the past President of the Oregonian Club, Powers was the driving force behind construction of bikeways throughout the city. Today, Powers serves Toledo on the Toledo Area Council of Governments Pedestrian and Bikeway Committee. For more than 20 years, Powers has volunteered at the German American Festival held in Oregon, Ohio. His guidance as President of the Oregon-Jerusalem Historical Society helped advance that society and organize and establish the Brandville Schoolhouse as their headquarters.

For fun, Powers volunteers yearly for the Jamie Farr LPGA Classic. He and his wife, Helen, have two children and four grandchildren. If Powers is not volunteering or traveling the world, you may find him in his workshop, which according to him is his “therapy.”

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 121-year-old NFCA unites 76 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million fraternalists in 36,000 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 \$324 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2005 alone, contributed almost \$400 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered 93 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.

###

NFCA Headquarters: 1315 West 22nd Street, Suite 400, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Phone: 630-522-NFCA **Fax:** 630-522-6326 **Web Site:** www.nfcenet.org **E-Mail:** nfca@nfcenet.org