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The Association of America's
Fraternal Benefit Societies

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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

OAK BROOK, IL, June 18, 2007 – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize Marianne Rauer—a member of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU), District #630, Ann Arbor, Michigan—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of June 18, 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, Marianne Rauer embodies the heart of fraternalism through her hard work, dedication and generosity.”

Rauer was born to help others. Thirty years ago, she started The Ladies of The Afternoon, and The Ladies of the Evening, who keep up the “fraternal spirit” by donating time and money to worthy causes on the local level. She makes and donates afghans to many organizations, such as Lexington Court Garden Club (14 years), Schwabenverein of Ann Arbor, GBU District #821 – Saxonia-Rheingold Chorus, and, of course, her own District #630, Ann Arbor.

Rauer co-chairs the Women's Circle at her church, Zion Lutheran, and through her church, volunteers for SERRV—a group that acquires products from Third World countries, sells them and returns the proceeds to the country of origin. For 28 years, she has helped cook for the Peace Neighborhood Center—an after-school program for underprivileged students. She also cooks and bakes for the other groups that she belongs to. Rauer is involved with two Sister-City programs—Tuebingen, Germany, and Hikona, Japan. She and her husband, Hans, have taken groups to Tuebingen on three separate occasions. She was appointed by the court as a personal assistant for a non-English speaking person. During the Christmas Season Rauer hosts a two-hour Radio show on WNZK 690 AM in Detroit and also can be found ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. In her spare time, Rauer visits shut-ins and the sick members of her organizations.

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 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 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 \$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.

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