

**NATIONAL
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**JOINING HANDS
TO TOUCH LIVES**

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 Verla Mae Shultz named Fraternal MVP.*

OAK BROOK, IL, July 9, 2007 – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize Verla Mae Shultz—a member of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU), District #291, Summerhill, Pennsylvania—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of July 9, 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, Verla Mae Shultz embodies the heart of fraternalism through her hard work, dedication and generosity.”

Shultz is the pure definition of fraternalism. Being community minded, she is consistently volunteering her help in the Summerhill, New Germany and Johnstown areas to various organizations.

In 1962, Shultz became an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Summerhill, where she served as Unit President for eight years. Currently, she serves as Treasurer and Parliamentarian of the Cambria County Council for the Auxiliary. In the past, she served the Auxiliary as District President, Western Vice President, Department Historian and

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Parliamentarian. Under her leadership as Auxiliary Department President and Eastern Vice President, they won many state and national awards. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Legion Homeless Veterans Corporation. Under her past guidance as Department President, they raised and donated \$40,000 to the Corporation. Each Christmas, she goes on a Christmas tour of all the VA Hospitals in Pennsylvania and distributes good cheer and gifts to the veterans. Shultz began a program for the Keystone Girl State Program 13 years ago, which raises and donates between \$12,000 and \$14,000 a year for the girls.

Shultz joined the GBU Summerhill District #291 in 1978. In 1982, she became an active GBU District Sales Representative for both her district and District #500 in Lily, Penn. As an outstanding district officer and leader, she has been elected as a delegate of her district for every GBU National Convention since 1985. Serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Summerhill district for many years, she has been instrumental in winning many awards for the district. Her salesmanship as a District Representative has won her numerous awards including the GBU Million Dollar club. Additionally, her "beyond the call of duty" fraternal efforts have won her GBU's highest fraternal recognition, the Louis Volz Award.

As a retired nurse with 25 years of experience on the oncology floor at Lee Hospital in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, she is now a nurse volunteer at the Keystone Girl State Program. Additionally, she still does volunteer work at several local nursing homes and her Methodist Church in South Fork. As the Building Co-Chairman for the Senior Citizen Center in South Fork, Shultz raised funds to build a new center.

Shultz is the mother of two children, Ken and Linda, and five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of which are members of GBU.

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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