



**NATIONAL
MUTUAL
BENEFIT**

A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism *National Mutual Benefit Member Joseph Popelka named Fraternal MVP.*

MADISON, WI, November 10, 2006 –National Mutual Benefit (NMB) is proud to recognize Joseph Popelka of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and member of Branch 717, as an NFCA Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant). Fraternal MVPs are “Fraternalists-in-Action” who volunteer their time and energy to strengthen their communities through leadership roles in NMB-sponsored branch activities and other charitable endeavors.

“We are proud to have someone as dedicated as Joe Popelka serving as President of one of our fraternal branches,” stated National Mutual Benefit President George Yanna. “He deserves the MVP honor due to his commitment to his family, his church, and the entire Oconomowoc community. He especially makes it a point to involve young people in the community to serve and be successful.”

Popelka has served as president of the Branch 717 for six years. He has also served as its vice president, secretary, historian and trustee. Popelka is involved with most of Branch 717’s activities. He was active in fundraising for the fire department to purchase an ATV vehicle for search and rescue. He also was active in fundraising events to help a local family who lost their home to a fire. He has chaired events that bring families together such as father-son activities,

father-daughter events, summer picnics, miniature golf outings, hayrides, Easter egg hunts, Christmas parties, and many other events.

For the last 20 years, Popelka has chaired NMB Branch 717's Clark Farm Nature Center Project, which improves the center with regular clean-up and maintenance. Improvements to the center have included rebuilding an amphitheater, building several benches and a sampling pier, with ongoing maintenance of each. The Clark Farm Nature Center is a natural area that the whole community enjoys, including local schools that use the center for their science classes.

Popelka also is active in his church. He and his wife have been prayer couples for Lutheran Marriage Encounter over the past several years to help strengthen marriages and families. Popelka helped chair the Family Summer Retreat, as well as the Father-Son Fishing Trip and the Father-Daughter Canoe Trip. Popelka also was the head of his Men in Mission Bible Study, acted as a mentor for a Confirmation student, has been a communion assistant and takes communion to shut-ins.

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 National Mutual Benefit

National Mutual Benefit, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, promotes community outreach and volunteer activities on the local level through subsidiaries call "Branches." Each NMB fraternal branch is provided financial and material resources from the headquarters office to organize and carry out charitable, community improvement, educational, and patriotic programs to improve and enrich the lives of others and the communities they live in.

In existence since 1902, National Mutual Benefit provides financial security to individuals, families, and business owners through its life insurance and disability income insurance programs and other financial services. NMB members are also afforded value-added fraternal

benefits, at no additional cost, such as scholarships for young adults, discount programs, and assistance grants when disaster, illness or death strikes a family.

About the NFCA

The 120-year-old NFCA unites 75 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million people in 36,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member 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. In addition, fraternalists volunteered 93 million hours toward community-service projects during that same period. For more information, visit the NFCA's Web site at www.nfcenet.org.

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