

**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@nfcnet.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism *Polish Roman Catholic Union of America* *Member Lucjan Rozwadowski Visits Capitol Hill.*

OAK BROOK, IL, October 9, 2007 – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) recognized Lucjan Rozwadowski —a member of Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), District #8, Romeoville, Illinois—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) in Washington, D.C., on September 26-27, 2007. Rozwadowski, honored for his outstanding fraternal service, met with members of Congress representing his home state and Congressional district. 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 salutes Lucjan Rozwadowski as a true fraternalist,” said NFCA Chair of the Board Katharine E. Rounthwaite. “As a Fraternal MVP, Mr. Rozwadowski embodies the heart of fraternalism through his hard work, dedication and generosity. He demonstrates how fraternalism is a force for good in American society.”

During his Capitol Hill visit, Rozwadowski met with Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), and Representative Judy Biggert (R-Illinois). These members of Congress were very interested in learning what Rozwadowski and his fraternal benefit society, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, are accomplishing in their state and districts, and expressed their support for fraternal

contributions to local communities. Senator Durbin has met with several MVPs during the past year and talked about the important work that the Polish community has done for decades in the Chicago area, noting that Rozwadowski has made his own notable contributions through his volunteer service.

“Fraternalists have a great story to tell, and no one can tell it better than the individuals who devote time to making their communities a better place by helping their neighbors and friends,” said NFCA Chair Rounthwaite. “Lucjan Rozwadowski went to Washington and was an excellent goodwill ambassador for the fraternal benefit system. Through his story, he demonstrated to members of Congress the good works performed by fraternalists every day.”

“The MVP visits remind legislators in a very direct way that any attempt to raise revenues by eliminating the fraternal tax-exemption would also eliminate important volunteer activity that could not easily be replicated,” said Evan Migdail, NFCA’s Washington lobbyist. “For that reason, each of the fraternalists who come to Washington carries a vital message to Congress.”

Of the 10 million fraternalists nationwide, Lucjan Rozwadowski was selected for this honor for his many contributions and long history of volunteerism. His involvement in fraternal and charitable activities has been a shining example for others.

Rozwadowski has had a long and involved relationship not only with the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), but also with Polonia (people of Polish origin who live outside Polish borders) in general. Soon after starting a family 40 years ago, Rozwadowski realized the importance of instilling the values and traditions of his native Poland in his daughters. He enrolled them in the Polish language school and dance program at St. Pancratius Church in Brighton Park. He and his wife, Alina, and a few friends co-founded the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School at Five Holy Martyrs Parish. For two decades, Rozwadowski worked diligently to foster the new school, and as its president, worked tirelessly to make it grow into one of the largest of its kind and involving it with PRCUA. In addition to his regular duties as president, he organized countless dances and fundraisers, supplied hamburgers to students after the Polish Constitution Day parade, made props for the drama club, organized field trips to fun places such as Great America, and

personally bought flowers for the teachers on Sweetest Day. As the school grew and the first 8th grade class graduated, he saw the need for these students to continue their education in the Polish tradition, and found a way for Maria Konopnicka Polish School to become one of the first to offer an accredited high school program.

Rozwadowski was instrumental in bringing PRCUA to another Polish school in Lemont, IL. He encouraged other adults to become insurance agents and start new societies for PRCUA. He and Alina became members of the Adult Culture Group in the early 1970's, which hosts the annual Cinderella-Prince Charming Scholarship Ball. Both of their daughters participated during their high school years, and Rozwadowski and Alina put on their own dance shoes and performed the Polonez, year after year, with the Adult Culture Group. In 1979, Rozwadowski suggested his daughter become a member of the Wesoly Lud Dancers. So involved was Rozwadowski with the dance group over the years that he was named an honorary member, and his daughter not only remained a member for 12 years, but became a teacher, a choreographer, and started her own dance program.

Rozwadowski has been active in PRCUA, taking leadership roles, and eventually becoming president of District #8. He has organized picnics, fundraisers and other outings for District #8. After 40 years of continuous service to the PRCUA and to Polonia, Rozwadowski continues in his quest to promote the Polish heritage and the PRCUA. Rozwadowski encouraged his sisters- and brothers-in-law to become part of the organization, and Rozwadowski and Alina can boast that their family includes a Cinderella and a first runner-up, three Prince Charmings and a first runner-up, poetry competition winners, scholarship recipients, a Miss Polonia, a translator for a news service during Pope John Paul II's travels, and a Polish radio and television producer. Rozwadowski himself is still extremely active in PRCUA and Polonia by attending many sponsored activities and being a delegate to PRCUA conventions.

In essence, Rozwadowski remains "on-call" for the officers of PRCUA, donating his time and efforts whenever needed. He organizes trips for his residential association to Milwaukee's Polish fests, and was instrumental in organizing Polish fests in his community. He takes part in the annual Constitution Day parade downtown, promoting PRCUA and Poland.

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 Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) is the oldest Polish American fraternal in America. It was established in 1873 in the spirit of brotherhood to unite and help Polish immigrants. Today, PRCUA performs religious, charitable, educational and civic work on behalf of its members and the Polish American Community. PRCUA is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with additional offices in Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.prcua.org.

About the NFCA

The 121-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 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.nfcnet.org.

###

Photos on next page...

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

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



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

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