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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZICK HONORED AT NEW YORK INSURANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALBANY, NY, June 4, 2008 – Richard J. Zick, president and chief executive officer of Utica First Insurance Company was honored with the New York Insurance Association’s (NYIA’s) 2008 Chair’s Distinguished Service Award at the association’s annual conference on May 26 in Grand Island, N.Y.

Zick has served on the NYIA Board of Directors for the past ten years and is currently first vice chair of the association. He is the founder and chair of the New York Insurance Scholarship Foundation affiliated with NYIA and has served on numerous NYIA committees.

“Richard is most deserving of this award,” NYIA board chair and American International Group, Inc. director of state relations, Cecilia E. Norat said. “I have the pleasure of serving with Richard on NYIA’s board of directors and find him to be a consummate professional. He embodies NYIA’s core values and is a major contributor to the association and the insurance industry as a whole.”

Zick began his insurance career after graduating from Niagara University. His career has taken him from underwriter to underwriting management to executive vice president to president & chief executive officer. He attained his Associate in Underwriting designation in 1981 and the Chartered Property/Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 1985. Since that time, he has received seven Continuing Professional Development Certificates. An adjunct professor for many years at a local college, Zick has taught the New York State agent’s licensing courses and management courses.

He serves on the board of Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) and was formerly the chairman of the American Association of Insurance Services (AAIS). He is active in the community, having served on the boards of the United Way, Family Services, Boy Scouts, Teugega Country Club and Utica College.

Zick has received several prestigious awards. He was named Insurance Executive of the Year by Metro-RAP in 2003, Insurance Professional of the Mohawk Valley in 2005, Man of the Year by the Greater New York Council of Insurance Brokers in 2005, was given the Presidential Citation from PIA in 2005, and was named the UJA-Federation of New York - Insurance Division Honoree earlier this year.

He resides in Rome, N.Y. with his wife Nikki and daughter Jillian.

The New York Insurance Association (NYIA[®]) is a state trade association that has represented the property and casualty insurance industry for over 125 years. For more information on NYIA, visit www.nyia.org.

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