

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2002

CONTACT: Brad Jones (573) 634-7660
Valerie Bollman (202) 554-9000

Local Small-Business Leader Travels to Washington to Listen, Learn and Be Heard

Local business leader Joe Balsarotti will serve as a delegate to the NFIB 2002 National Small Business Summit in Washington D.C. June 12-15.

Balsarotti, owner of Software To Go in Clayton, will participate in the biennial event along with hundreds of other small-business owners from all over the country.

“The summit brings elected officials and public policy experts face-to-face with Main Street business owners, family farmers and other entrepreneurs whose day-to-day operations are profoundly affected by their actions,” said NFIB President Jack Faris. “Besides meeting their elected officials in Congress to urge their support on legislation crucial to small business, the small-business owners will attend workshops focusing on federal agencies and federal regulations and learn to be better small-business advocates in their communities.”

Faris noted that the confirmed speakers include House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, Small Business Administration Administrator Hector Barreto, former First Lady Barbara Bush, White House Senior Advisor Karl Rove, nationally known radio talk-show hosts such as Jim Blasingame, Oliver North, Blanquita Collum, Jim Bohannon and Grammy-Award winning entertainer Lee Greenwood.

Balsarotti, who began his computer and software business in 1983 and employs four people, has long been active in local civic and business organizations, as well as involved in state and federal advocacy. He is chair of NFIB/Missouri’s Leadership Council and a delegate to the NFIB National Small Business Summit in 1998 and 2000.

Wells-Fargo, the leader in small-business financial services, is proud to be Title Sponsor of the 2002 National Small Business Summit. Other sponsors include MBNA America, The Mills Corporation, NFIB Member Services Corporation and Fed Ex.

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is the nation’s largest small-business advocacy group. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington and all 50 state capitals. NFIB’s 2002 National Small Business Summit will be held June 12-15 in Washington, D.C. More information is available on-line at www.nfib.com.