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Novant Health, Andy Widmark Receive M&F Bank Founders Award

Durham, NC (June 3, 2015) – M&F Bank celebrated the 2015 recipients of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank Founders Award during Tuesday’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders of M&F Bancorp, Inc., recognizing Novant Health and Andrew B. “Andy” Widmark, Esq. The annual award recognizes individuals or entities that embody the “Founding Principles” based on hallmark values or attributes of the men who established the Bank in 1907, and which have guided the Bank ever since. Those Principles include: success through industrious labor; courage & leadership; embracing diversity; “doing well by doing good;” responsible citizenship; investing one’s time & resources in the community; commitment to excellence and attention to detail; taking the opportunity to make a difference; and being a mentor and role model.

Novant Health, a not-for-profit healthcare system based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is the first corporate entity to receive the Founders Award. Novant’s mission is to “improve the health of the communities it serves, one person at a time.” The organization fulfills that mission by providing unreimbursed health services regardless of one’s ability to pay, and supporting community health education groups, community screenings and other programs. A stellar example of Novant’s commitment is its Community Care Cruiser, a mobile clinic that provides immunizations to uninsured and underinsured children in the greater Charlotte area. Representing Novant Health were Joe Muster, Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, and Kevin Price, Director of Supplier Diversity. Noting that the theme for the meeting was “Transformation,” Muster commented, “What I’d like to say to the shareholders is that one thing you should never change is your quality of service at M&F. Novant is a large organization, and we have relationships with other financial institutions, but we have such a sense of warmth and caring with M&F. I hope we continue our partnership for years to come.”

The 2015 individual award recipient was real estate executive Andy Widmark. Widmark is the President & CEO of Mark Properties, Inc. and Mark Investments, Inc., which specialize in real estate management, brokerage, and investment. In 1993, he helped establish Downtown Durham, Inc. to serve as a catalyst for downtown revitalization. He was Professor of the Practice of Real Estate at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business from 1987 to 2013. Widmark’s varied and vastly successful career also includes being partner in two different legal firms, and serving as Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University School of Law. “This is quite an honor. I’ve had a long relationship with M&F, and it’s been a great one since the beginning. I appreciate the fact that working with them is simple, direct and hassle-free, and in my opinion, it’s the people that make the difference,” Widmark said after the ceremony.

Commenting on the Founders Award recipients for 2015, James H. Sills, President and CEO of M&F Bancorp, Inc. and M&F Bank, said, “Our honorees this year exemplify our Founding Principles in their dedication to excellence and commitment to community. Their examples remind us that we best honor M&F’s traditions not looking back, but by moving forward consistently and with conviction, and by setting our standards high.”

Mechanics and Farmers Bank (M&F Bank) is a state-chartered commercial bank founded in 1907, and has operated continuously and profitably since 1908. M&F Bank is one of few NC bank designated by the United States Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Its vision is to be the preferred community bank in its markets. M&F Bank is the wholly owned subsidiary of M&F Bancorp, Inc., a one-bank holding company headquartered in Durham, NC, with assets of approximately \$297.8 million as of March 31, 2015. M&F Bancorp's common stock is quoted in the over-the-counter market through the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol "MFBP." For additional information, contact M&F Bancorp Corporate Headquarters, 2634 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham, NC at (919) 687-7800 or visit www.mfbonline.com

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Photos attached:

L – R: Andrew B. “Andy” Widmark; Lenny F. Springs II, M&F Bank Board of Directors

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