

SourceMedia, Inc.  
One State Street Plaza, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Tel. 212-803-8200  
www.sourcemedia.com



## News Release

**News Release Contact:**

Michelle Lyng  
571-970-0446  
202-380-7114  
mblyng@novitascommunications.com

**Corporate Contact:**

Anne O'Brien  
SourceMedia  
212-803-8280  
anne.obrien@sourcemedia.com

For Immediate Release

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# **AMERICAN BANKER to Honor J. Mariner Kemper, Peyton R. Patterson and Kenneth P. Wilcox as 2008 Community Bankers of the Year**

*CEOs of UMB Financial, NewAlliance Bancshares  
and SVB Financial recognized for outperformance*

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**NEW YORK, NY – October 31, 2008** – The editors of *American Banker* will present J. Mariner Kemper, chairman and chief executive of UMB Financial; Peyton R. Patterson, chairman and chief executive of NewAlliance Bancshares Inc.; and Kenneth P. Wilcox, president and chief executive of SVB Financial, with its Community Banker of the Year Award. All three bankers will be honored at the Banker of the Year awards gala on December 4 at the Plaza Hotel in New York.

“These three companies are vastly different from one another,” said David Longobardi, editor in chief of *American Banker*. “What they have in common is that they have remained strong performers in what been the most challenging climate for banks since the savings-and-loan crisis.”

Since 2004, Kemper has led Kansas City-based UMB Financial, a bank widely viewed by analysts and investors as one of the country’s best-run banking companies. Much of the credit goes to Kemper, who improved the commercial bank’s retail side by investing in its branch network and retraining its lenders to be better deposit gatherers. While most banking companies have been reporting sharp declines in earnings this year, UMB’s profit was up 32 percent through the first three quarters.

NewAlliance has undergone a transformation under Patterson. Known as New Haven Savings Bank when she was hired in 2001, the mutual thrift went public in 2004 and used the proceeds to acquire two other banks. Now the third-largest bank or thrift company based in Connecticut, NewAlliance ranks among the Northeast’s strongest savings banks because it stuck to its credit standards while some competitors were easing theirs. NewAlliance has emerged as the top Small Business Administration lender in its home state and is on pace for a record year in mortgage originations.

(more)

SVB was among the nation's highest-flying banks in the 1990s, but hit a rough patch when the tech bubble burst. Under Wilcox, the company sharpened its focus and exited the real estate lending business. It accelerated its expansion nationally and globally and has offices in every major technology center in the world. Even with the economy weakening, SVB is enjoying strong growth. Loans and deposits were up more than 20 percent through the first three quarters, and its returns are comfortably above industry averages.

Kemper, Patterson and Wilcox will be among six industry leaders saluted at this year's Banker of The Year Awards gala on December 4. The others include Lifetime Achievement, Banker of the Year, and Innovator of the Year, and have been announced by this paper.

The Banker of the Year honorees are selected by the editors of *American Banker* in an independent and journalistic process.

Since the inaugural Banker of the Year Awards dinner and ceremony in 2001, the gala has become the industry's premier event, attracting a "who's who" of lawmakers, regulators and leading executives.

To accompany the awards gala, a special report, "Best in Banking 2008," showcasing the year's most important stories and trends, will be published in the December 5 edition of *American Banker*.

For information on attending or sponsoring the 2008 Banker of the Year Awards gala, please contact Jessica Yazujian at 212-803-6597.

**About American Banker and SourceMedia, Inc.**

*American Banker*, [www.AmericanBanker.com](http://www.AmericanBanker.com), is the banking industry's daily source of information, news, and analysis for executives at banks of all sizes. Founded in 1836, with a current readership of more than 65,000, the publication covers topics including national and global issues, mortgages, consumer finance, legislation, investment products, card and payment systems and technology.

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