
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2006 (Vol. 12 No. 1)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the holidays are behind us and Winter is upon us. And we are all jumping full-fledged into another New Year. But the days are getting longer and Spring is just around the corner.

I am happy to begin yet another one-year term as your President. I am also very pleased to report that 68 of our members and friends had a terrific time at the Holiday Luncheon (see article inside and pictures as a separate enclosure) and I encourage everyone to join in future activities of this nature.

I am also pleased that the association continues to attract new members and membership renewals are coming in at a very good pace. On page 2 you will see a list of 10 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 462. In this issue those few of you who have not yet renewed your membership will find a reminder regarding the year 2006 membership renewal process. Dues remain at \$5.00 per year and we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to renew at this time, while it is fresh in your mind. And you can now renew for any number of years. **Unfortunately, this will be the last issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News for those who do not renew for 2006 or beyond.**

In this issue you will also find items about the COLA Count, New Medicare Rates, Vision and Dental Benefits, a donation to the CFC, the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news, an interesting article about safety tips for earthquake survival and, of course, the ever popular KomedY Korner. There are lots of other items that hopefully will also be of interest to you.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful New Year and continued happiness, good health and prosperity in retirement.



William L Engelhardt

HCFA/CMS ALUMNI NEWS

Published four times a year for the members of the Health Care Financing Administration
/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (HCFA/CMS) Alumni Association

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DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

Spring Issue – March 24, 2006

Summer Issue – June 23, 2006

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NEW MEMBERS

The Association extends a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the following new members:

Adrian M. Clift
Tony Emanuel
Kathy Headen
Thomas E. Hoyer, Jr.
Thomas E. Jacobs
Marlene Jones
Katherine Levit
Don Nicholson
Sue Mathis-Bryant
David J. Zaruba

We now have 462 active members.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has unanimously re-appointed incumbent board members Barbara C. Booth, Herbert Shankfroff and Edward Steinhouse, whose terms expired December 31, 2005, to another two year term, ending December 31, 2007. Richard C. Faulstich has joined the board, replacing Irving Goldstein who has our deep gratitude for his many years of dedicated service. Board members William L. Engelhardt, William A. Grant and William H. Hogsten are in the second year of a two-year term. The Board also unanimously elected the following officers, to serve for the calendar year 2006:

President – William L Engelhardt
Vice President – William H. Hogsten
Treasurer – William A Grant
Secretary – Barbara C Booth

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2005 DUES

The collection of the annual dues for the year 2006, covering the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, continues. Enclosed with this issue of the Alumni News is the re-enrollment form (**but only for those few members who have not yet renewed**). Dues remain at just \$5.00 per year. When using the form to mail in your dues, please note any changes in information so we may update our records (i.e. address, e-mail, phone number, etc.)

For your convenience, we have included a pre-addressed envelope to send in your 2006 dues. **If you have already paid your dues for 2006 or later you should NOT find an enrollment form included with this issue.** We also continue to accept membership enrollment (or re-enrollment)

for multiple years. Members may pay \$5.00 per year and sign up for any number of years. Because the dues are nominal, there are no discounts for multiple year enrollments and there is no "lifetime" membership. Multiple year enrollments are available as a convenience to members. To facilitate keeping track of individual enrollment periods, the mailing labels used to send the HCFA/CMS Alumni News contain the member's I.D. Number and the date of expiration of enrollment, i.e., 12/31/05.

MEMBERSHIP SEARCH

As always, we acknowledge that there are many HCFA/CMS retirees that we have not been able to reach to tell them about the Alumni Association and invite them to join. We continue to ask for your assistance in spreading the message about us to them. If you know of any retiree that is not a member, please let them know about us and tell them how to contact us by telephone, snail mail or e-mail (all of that information can be found on page 2 of this issue). We will be very happy to send, either electronically or via snail mail, anyone the enrollment form and further information about membership. And Bill Engelhardt says you can always e-mail him personally at wengelhardt@adelphia.net for faster response (as the office e-mail is only accessed weekly).

NEW ALUMNI WEB SITE ADDRESS

Due to a revamping of the CMS web site, the URL to access the alumni page has changed to:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov//CMSAlumni>

If you are already at the CMS web site (www.cms.hhs.gov), you can also find us under the "About CMS" link at the top of the page and then under "Career Information."

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

68 Alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon at Alexandra's Restaurant in the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club and everyone had a wonderful time. Everyone enjoyed the event and the place was abuzz with happy people renewing old acquaintances. And an HCFA/CMS Alumni subsidy kept the cost at a very reasonable level. The setting was great and the view overlooking the golf course was beautiful. The room was very nice and the ambiance fantastic. This was a record setting crowd and attendance has been increasing each year. We hope to have a similarly great experience and see even more of you at next year's Holiday Luncheon. Be sure to check out the 26 photographs in a separate enclosure with this newsletter. Bonnie Fogler was kind enough to take all of the pictures and submit them electronically, and naturally is the one person missing from them.

SSAEAA

We'd again like to remind members that we do have a link to the Social Security Administration Employee Activities Association (SSAEAA) on our web site. The actual URL for it is "<http://ssaeea.org>" but you can just click on the link on our page. HCFA/CMS retirees are automatically members of the SSAEAA and are eligible to participate in discount purchases.

NARFE

An alumni member wrote, "I would like to see our newsletter, on a regular basis, mention NARFE and the work that organization (the only organization I am aware of which works on our behalf) does, the very interesting and useful information we get monthly in the NARFE magazine, as well as the perks available to NARFE members. Some of the retirees I have talked to never knew about the organization."

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is an organization that is considered by many to represent the best interests of retired Federal employees. We do not actively or regularly endorse the goals or political viewpoints of this organization simply because our By-Laws and Constitution designate the Alumni Association as a social organization and preclude us from such activities.

Anyone interested in learning more about NARFE should check out the web site at <http://www.narfe.org/> or the NARFE-net site at <http://www.narfe.org/nn/home.cfm>.

COLA COUNT

Through 3 months of the counting period to determine the January 2007 federal retiree cost-of-living adjustment, retirees have banked 0.5 percent for the next COLA. There are 9 months left in the counting period.

DONATION TO CFC



The Alumni Board of Directors decided that a donation to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a most worthwhile cause, would be appropriate. The CFC sponsored a Talent Show in October and President Bill Engelhardt took advantage of the opportunity to publicly present a check for \$1,500 to Lillian Lehnert for the CFC on behalf of the alumni. Some 300 CMS employees attended the Talent Show and Bill was able to make a pitch for the Alumni Association. His pitch and the donation were well received. The guy in the cartoon poster on the podium is Gerald Walters, 2005 CFC Chairperson.

2006 CFC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Heads UP – CMS has already booked the Oakmont Green north of Hampstead, MD for September 7, 2006 at 1:00PM for a shot gun golf outing in support of the CFC. The cost will be the same (\$75 per person) as last year. This price includes Green fees, cart, steak dinner and CFC donation. The lead Chairperson for the Golf Tournament is Wayne Miller and he will again organize it for 2006. We hope to provide further details in future issues of this newsletter and/or via e-mail to our Internet connected members.

VISION & DENTAL BENEFITS

The Office of Personnel Management has sent a contract solicitation to the insurance industry for creating the vision and dental benefits package for federal employees, retirees and certain family members authorized by law last year. Bids from vendors are due in January, and negotiations are to be completed and a contract awarded in May. An open season is to be conducted during next November and December, with benefits effective next December.

The vision and dental benefits program will be roughly modeled after the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program, in that enrollees will pay the entire premium cost and the government's role is limited to oversight of the program. Unlike in the FLTCIP which has one provider, though, numerous providers are envisioned for the dental and vision benefits, with a variety of benefit plan designs and coverage levels. For a closer look at OPM's "solicitation of applications," go to fedweek.com/HotFreeNews in the hot free info section of the website.

NEW MEDICARE RATES

The following is a listing of the Medicare premium, deductible, and coinsurance rates that are in effect for 2006:

Medicare Premiums for 2006:

Part A: (Hospital Insurance) Premium

- Most people do not pay a monthly Part A premium because they or a spouse has 40 or more quarters of Medicare-covered employment.
- The Part A premium is \$216.00 for people having 30-39 quarters of Medicare-covered employment.
- The Part A premium is \$393.00 per month for people who are not otherwise eligible for premium-free hospital insurance and have less than 30 quarters of Medicare-covered employment.

Part B: (Medical Insurance) Premium

\$88.50 per month.

Medicare Deductible and Coinsurance Amounts for 2006:

Part A: (pays for inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care) For each benefit period Medicare pays all covered costs except the Medicare Part A deductible (2006 = \$952) during the first 60 days and coinsurance amounts for hospital stays that last beyond 60 days and no more than 150 days.

For each benefit period you pay:

- . A total of \$952 for a hospital stay of 1-60 days.
- . \$238 per day for days 61-90 of a hospital stay.
- . \$476 per day for days 91-150 of a hospital stay (Lifetime Reserve Days).
- . All costs for each day beyond 150 days

Skilled Nursing Facility Coinsurance

- . \$119.00 per day for days 21 through 100 each benefit period.

Part B: (covers Medicare eligible physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment)

\$124.00 per year. (Note: You pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for services after you meet the \$124.00 deductible.)

"TRIANGLE OF LIFE" (EARTHQUAKES)

Submitted by Jacqueline G. Wilson

When you think what we were taught to do when we were children. How wrong they were!!

EXTRACT FROM DOUG COPP'S ARTICLE ON THE "TRIANGLE OF LIFE",
Edited by Larry Linn for MAA Safety Committee brief on 4/13/04.

My name is Doug Copp. I am the Rescue Chief and Disaster Manager of the American Rescue Team International (ARTI), the world's most experienced rescue team. The information in this article will save lives in an earthquake.

I have crawled inside 875 collapsed buildings, worked with rescue teams from 60 countries, founded rescue teams in several countries, and I am a member of many rescue teams from many countries. I was the United Nations expert in Disaster Mitigation for two years. I have worked at Every major disaster in the world since 1985, except for simultaneous disasters.

In 1996 we made a film, which proved my survival methodology to be correct. The Turkish Federal Government, City of Istanbul, University of Istanbul Case Productions and ARTI cooperated to film this practical, scientific test. We collapsed a school and a home with 20 mannequins inside. Ten mannequins did "duck and cover," and ten mannequins I used in my "triangle of life" survival method. After the simulated earthquake collapse we crawled through the rubble and entered the building to film and document the results. The film, in which I practiced my survival techniques under directly observable, scientific conditions, relevant to building collapse, showed there would have been zero percent survival for those doing duck and cover. There would likely have been 100 percent survivability for people using my method of the "triangle of life."

This film has been seen by millions of viewers on television in Turkey and the rest of Europe, and it was seen in the USA, Canada and Latin America on the TV program Real TV.

The first building I ever crawled inside of was a school in Mexico City during the 1985 earthquake. Every child was under their desk. Every child was crushed to the thickness of their bones. They could have survived by lying down next to their desks in the aisles. It was obscene, unnecessary and I wondered why the children were not in the aisles. I didn't at the time know that the children were told to hide under something. Simply stated, when buildings collapse, the weight of the ceilings falling upon the objects or furniture inside crushes these objects, leaving a space or void next to them. This space is what I call the "triangle of life." The larger the object, the stronger, the less it will compact. The less the object compacts, the larger the void, the greater the probability that the person who is using this void for safety will not be injured. The next time you watch collapsed buildings, on television, count the "triangles" you see formed. They are everywhere. It is the most common shape, you will see, in a collapsed building. They are everywhere.

TEN TIPS FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

- 1) Most everyone who simply "ducks and covers" WHEN BUILDINGS COLLAPSE, are crushed to death. People who get under objects, like desks or cars, are crushed.
- 2) Cats, dogs and babies often naturally curl up in the fetal position. You should too in an earthquake. It is a natural safety/survival instinct. You can survive in a smaller void. Get next to an object, next to a sofa, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly but leave a void next to it.
- 3) Wooden buildings are the safest type of construction to be in during an earthquake. Wood is flexible and moves with the force of the earthquake. If the wooden building does collapse, large survival voids are created. Also, the wooden building has less concentrated, crushing weight. Brick buildings will break into individual bricks. Bricks will cause many injuries but less squashed bodies than concrete slabs.
- 4) If you are in bed during the night and an earthquake occurs, simply roll off the bed. A safe void will exist around the bed. Hotels can achieve a much greater survival rate in earthquakes, simply by posting a sign on the back of the door of every room telling occupants to lie down on the floor, next to the bottom of the bed during an earthquake.
- 5) If an earthquake happens and you cannot easily escape by getting out the door or window, then lie down and curl up in the fetal position next to a sofa, or large chair.
- 6) Most everyone who gets under a doorway when buildings collapse is killed. How? If you stand under a doorway and the doorjamb falls forward or backward you will be crushed by the ceiling above. If the door jam falls sideways you will be cut in half by the doorway. In either case, you will be killed!
- 7) Never go to the stairs. The stairs have a different "moment of frequency" (they swing separately from the main part of the building). The stairs and remainder of the building continuously bump into each other until structural failure of the stairs takes place. The people who get on stairs before they fail are chopped up by the stair treads – horribly mutilated. Even if the building doesn't collapse, stay away from the stairs. The stairs are a likely part of the building to be damaged. Even if the stairs are not collapsed by the earthquake, they may collapse later when overloaded by fleeing people. They should always be checked for safety, even when the rest of the building is not damaged.
- 8) Get Near the Outer Walls Of Buildings Or Outside Of Them If Possible - It is much better to be near the outside of the building rather than the interior. The farther inside you are from the outside perimeter of the building the greater the probability that your escape route will be blocked
- 9) People inside of their vehicles are crushed when the road above falls in an earthquake and crushes their vehicles, which is exactly what happened with the slabs between the decks of the

Nimitz Freeway. The victims of the San Francisco earthquake all stayed inside of their vehicles. They were all killed. They could have easily survived by getting out and sitting or lying next to their vehicles. Everyone killed would have survived if they had been able to get out of their cars and sit or lie next to them. All the crushed cars had voids 3 feet high next to them, except for the cars that had columns fall directly across them.

10) I discovered, while crawling inside of collapsed newspaper offices and other offices with a lot of paper that paper does not compact. Large voids are found surrounding stacks of paper.

SPREAD THE WORD AND SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE!

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Kavanagh has been appointed Acting Director of the Technology Management Group (TMG). Gary's background and knowledge of the Medicare contractor environment will be invaluable in guiding the implementation of change control and problem tracking, as well as the Enterprise Data Center environment over the next year.

Chip Garner has become part of the TMG management team focusing on integrating the MMA systems into the existing infrastructure, as well as overseeing the operations and maintenance aspects of those systems.

Frank Cipolloni has assumed the role of Group Director for the Enterprise Database Group (EDG). Frank's recent efforts have been focused on the Integrated Data Strategy initiative and he has an extensive background in database management.

Ron Graham has assumed the role of Deputy Director of EDG. He has a strong database management background that will be of great help to EDG in the coming months.

John Evangelist will be the full-time Project Manager for the Integrated Data Repository project, a key element of the Integrated Data Strategy.

Cathy Carter has replaced Gary Kavanagh as the Director of the Business Standards and Systems Operations Group (BSOG). She was once the BSOG Deputy Director, which will allow for a seamless transition to the BSOG Director position.

Arlene E. Austin has been appointed Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights (OEOCR). She joined CMS from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the Department of Homeland Security. At TSA, Arlene served as an advisor to the senior leadership team on managing through civil rights, and provided training and guidance across the agency, reaching over 65,000 geographically dispersed employees. Prior to TSA, Arlene worked in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, as Chief of their Compliance Operations Division and was the Deputy Executive Assistant for Equal Opportunity at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Arlene earned her Bachelor of Law and Political Science degree from the University of Panama and is licensed to practice law in the

Republic of Panama. She is a certified mediator from the Justice Center of Atlanta and an authorized Public Interpreter/Translator (Spanish-English- Spanish).

Valerie Mattison Brown has been appointed Deputy Director of the Quality Improvement Group (QIG) in the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, where she will, along with Dr. Bill Rollow, provide leadership over the Quality Improvement Program (QIO). Among her many previous accomplishments, she designed and led a streamlined process for the MMA Council and focused on identifying and managing operational issues related to implementation of the MMA, quality, payment, states and other operational issues such as budget, systems, and human resource management.

KOMEDY KORNER

THOUGHTS ON AGING

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. Fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, at least I still have my driver's license.

My body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. It was intense! I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour.

Unfortunately, by the time I got my leotards on the class was over.

"What do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked the woman on her birthday, which had set a record for her town.

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

WORK VS. PRISON

IN PRISON...you spend the majority of your time in an 8x10 cell.

AT WORK...you spend most of your time in a 6x8 cubicle.

IN PRISON...you get three meals a day.

AT WORK...you only get a break for one meal and you have to pay for it.

IN PRISON...you get time off for good behavior.
AT WORK...you get rewarded for good behavior with more work.

IN PRISON...a guard locks and unlocks all the doors for you.
AT WORK...you must carry around a security card and unlock and open all the doors yourself.

IN PRISON...you can watch TV and play games.
AT WORK...you get fired for watching TV and playing games.

IN PRISON...you get your own toilet.
AT WORK...you have to share.

IN PRISON...they allow your family and friends to visit.
AT WORK...you cannot even speak to your family and friends.

IN PRISON...all expenses are paid by taxpayers with no work required
AT WORK...you get to pay all the expenses to go to work and then they deduct taxes from your salary to pay for prisoners.

IN PRISON...you spend most of your life looking through bars from the inside wanting to get out.
AT WORK...you spend most of your time wanting to get out and go inside bars.

IN PRISON...there are wardens who are often sadistic.
AT WORK...they are called managers.

IDLE THOUGHTS OF A RETIRED PERSON

I planted some birdseed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

I had amnesia once -- or twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

If the world were a logical place, men would ride horses sidesaddle.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible, and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able

to merge his car onto a freeway.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

The shampoo promised me extra body and I gained three pounds.

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a 20-penny nail.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

What was the greatest thing before sliced bread? HmMMM?

My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

Is there another word for synonym?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?

The speed of time is one-second per second.

Is it possible to be totally partial?

What's another word for thesaurus?

Is Marx's tomb a communist plot?

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

It's not an optical illusion. It just looks like one.

Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Retirees: The Whole Truth, Nothing But...

Submitted by Mike Hoban and Edward & Marjorie Tregoe

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answers: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answers: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes! , no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

OBITUARIES

RHEA CASWELL
(REMEMBRANCES)

By Walter B. Schaueremann

I was shocked to hear of Rhea's recent death in Florida. I had no idea. It's always startling when someone younger dies before you do. It's absolutely shocking when it's someone you've known fairly well and for quite a while. Some may remember her also as Rhea Moore or Rhea Rosensteel. If you do, you probably go back more than 40 years with her, as I do.

I first remember Rhea from the "computer rooms" at SSA where we both worked as operators and programmers in the early 1960's. We were in our early 20's then. I was single and Rhea acted like she was. She was, in fact, married to Charlie Rosensteel who ironically died young also already some 8-10 years now. Charlie was a good friend and my first impressions of Rhea were somewhat negative. Groups of us would gather at Hertsch's after night and/or midnight shift and do the things 20 something's think are fun. It was part of growing up I guess.

From the computer rooms, we each went our separate but somewhat related ways as I drifted into the Medicare world and Rhea went into Data Development as programmers. We had occasional contact but mostly just "heard" about each other every now and then. In the mid 80's, Rhea applied for a job in the Medicare area and we "renewed" our acquaintance after a fashion. We needed a good writer; Rhea wanted a change and I think it was Joe Daniloski who helped broker a deal where she came to work in the Medicare area.

By the mid 90's we were both ready to retire; and did!! By that time Medicare had long since been split from SSA and organized into HCFA (later to be renamed CMS). It had no Alumni Association; and, with suggestion from Dave Butler, I undertook to form one shortly after leaving. Rhea responded to an appeal for volunteers along with Darlene Summerfield and Bernie Crawley. Together, we drafted a Charter; established operational Procedures and contacted retirees to form the present Association. Rhea worked tirelessly and cheerfully in a completely volunteer capacity.

In fact, that is what I remember most about Rhea. She was a hard worker and always seemed to be upbeat and willing to do whatever she could to help. Nothing was beneath her. Her personality was effervescent. She made you feel good to be around her. She had a good sense of humor and could take a joke and dish one out as well.

After several years with the Alumni effort, Rhea once again "moved on"- this time to Florida and we again lost touch. She had had a small tax business here in Maryland and the last I heard she was working for H&R Block in Florida. I really don't know how her last years were; whether her health was good or she suffered. She always was a little frail I thought. I hope she was okay.

Rhea, I wish you well wherever you are. Keep smiling; don't take anything too seriously; and, keep on keepin on.

ARTHUR E. HESS

Submitted by Jim Barnett and Bill Hickman

Arthur E. Hess, 89, lawyer, served as 1st director of Medicare program

By John Fritze
sun reporter

Originally published November 21, 2005
Baltimore Sun

Arthur E. Hess, a lawyer who became the first director of the Medicare program and served as acting commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1973, died of complications from dementia Tuesday at his Charlottesville, Va., home. He was 89.

Mr. Hess, who lived in Baltimore from 1943 to 1982, was an architect of the Medicare program that provides health insurance for millions of seniors. He is widely credited with expanding federal government benefits programs during the 1960s.

Born in Reading, Pa., Mr. Hess graduated from Princeton University in 1939 and received a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1948. Shortly after graduating from Princeton, he took his first government job as a field representative for the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Hess became director of the Division of Disability Operations in 1954. In 1965, he was named director of the Bureau of Health Insurance, placing him at the head of Medicare. At the time, the program provided health insurance to 19 million Americans.

Called "Mr. Medicare," he was praised for bringing together private insurers, hospitals and government agencies to make the program successful, according to news reports at the time. In 1967, he was promoted to the position of deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration and served as acting commissioner for several months in 1973.

He retired in 1974.

In 1967, he was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the highest award bestowed on federal career employees. Two years later, he won the Rockefeller Public Service Award from Princeton.

He was married to the former Ann Davis, who died in 1979. In 1981 he married Jane Linn Hess, who lives in Charlottesville.

"He was a great man," Mrs. Hess said. "We just had a wonderful life."

After retirement, Mr. Hess served as the director of the Commission on Public General Hospitals between 1975 and 1978. He also was a senior member and scholar in residence at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville.

In addition to his wife, survivors include three daughters, Jean Hess Keller of Knoxville, Tenn., Ann Hess Smith of Gaithersburg and Elizabeth Hess Smith of Hagerstown; two sisters, Elizabeth Hess Herron of Marysville, Ohio, and Martha Hess Mantis of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and seven grandchildren.

JOSEPH GRAHAM YOUNG, JR.

Submitted by Bill Hickman

On November 5, the Washington Post carried an obituary of Joseph Graham Young, Jr., who died on October 11. He suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Joe had been living in Vienna, Virginia. He was age 81 at the time of death.

Joe first joined the then Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) in the Atlanta Regional Office in 1961. In 1966, he was transferred to HEW's headquarters to work on Medicare. He worked with CMS as a contract specialist until his retirement in 2003.

Joe is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ila, and two children, Freda Young and Joseph Young III.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges

the passing of the following

Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its

sympathy to family members:

RHEA L. MOORE CASWELL (6/4/05)*

EMILIO R. DEFILIPPO (12/17/05)*

ARTHUR E. HESS (11/15/05)**

DEBBIE R. JACKSON (12/10/05)***

JOHN C. LASLETT (UNK)*

STEPHANIE SENIOR (9/30/05) ****

PAUL E. SENN*

MICHAEL WALSH (12/4/05)*

JOSEPH GRAHAM YOUNG, JR. (10/11/05)*

* HCFA or CMS Retiree

** First Director of the Medicare Program

*** CMS Employee, Central Office

**** CMS Employee, Survey & Certification Branch, NY Regional Office

If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff

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