
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2012 (Vol. 18 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 we all have SPRING in our steps.

I am happy to begin yet another one-year term as your President. I am also very pleased to report that 137 of our members and friends had a terrific time at the Holiday Luncheon (see article inside) 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 19 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 627. In this issue those few of you who have not yet renewed your membership will find a reminder regarding the year 2012 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 renew for any number of years. **Unfortunately, this may be the last issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News for those who do not renew for 2012 or beyond.**

In this issue you will also find items about the COLA Count, the Board of Directors, the CMS Holocaust Memorial Program, the Social Security Alumni Blog, a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Alumni Donation, a Paul R Willging Endowment, and the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news. As usual, the Komedey Korner makes another heralded appearance. There are lots of items that hopefully will 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

PRESIDENT

William L. Engelhardt

VICE PRESIDENT

William H. Hogsten

SECRETARY

Lillian H. Lehnert

TREASURER

Herbert B. Shankroff

OTHER DIRECTORS

Richard C. Faulstich

William A. Grant

Lynn T. Strange

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Darlene Summerfield

DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

Spring Issue – March 31, 2012

Summer Issue – June 30, 2012

Send material to:

HCFA/CMS Alumni News

P.O. Box 47564

Baltimore, MD 21244-7564

TELEPHONE: 410-786-3918

FAX: 410-786-3898

E-MAIL:

HCFAALUM@cms.hhs.gov

INTERNET:

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

NEW MEMBERS

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

Julia R. Alberino
Mae A. Beale
Sandra Dayball
William Deming
Vera A. Dillard
Lawrence "Spike" Duzor
Roger Hicks
Irene Hoffman
Mark Horney
Lori Jones
Sandy Jones
Sue Kelly
Morty Marcus
Linda & Lee Mosedale
Mike Miller
Maria Parmer
Phil Pickering
Randal Ricktor
Thomas & Patricia Snyder

We now have 627 active members.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In November 2011 the Board of Directors unanimously re-appointed incumbent board members Lillian H. Lehnert, Herbert B. Shankroff, and Lynn T. Strange, whose terms were to expire on December 31, 2011, to another two-year term, ending December 31, 2013. The 3 members officially began their new two-year term at the Board Meeting on January 13, 2012.

The Board also unanimously elected the following officers, to serve for the calendar year 2012:

President – William L Engelhardt
Vice President – William H. Hogsten
Treasurer – Herbert B. Shankroff
Secretary – Lillian H. Lehnert

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2011 DUES

The collection of the annual dues for the year 2012, covering the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, 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 2012 dues. **If you have already paid your dues for 2012 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., 12/31/12. **If that date is 12/31/12 or later on your mailing label, you do NOT need to renew your membership at this time.**

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 wlengelhardt@comcast.net for faster response (as the office e-mail is only accessed weekly).

SOCIAL SECURITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We'd like to again remind members that we also have a link to our sister alumni, the Social Security Alumni Association, web site on our web site. The web site has been completely revamped and vastly improved. The actual URL for it is "<http://www.ssaanational.org>" but you can just click on the link on our page. Many HCFA and/or CMS retirees also worked for the Social Security Administration somewhere along the line, and are eligible for membership in both alumni associations.

SOCIAL SECURITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BLOG

Joe Vaughan, Vice-president of the Social Security Alumni Association (SSAA) has reminded us again that HCFA/CMS folks are certainly welcome to participate in any Social Security Alumni activity. Many of us are eligible to, and some of us actually do, belong to both alumni associations. The SSAA has developed a blog. Go to <http://ssaanews.blogspot.com/> to check it out. If you are a former SSA worker you just might be interested enough to join the SSAA.

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://ssaeaa.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.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

137 Alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon at Alexandra's Restaurant in the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club on December 15 and everyone had a wonderful time. Everyone enjoyed the event and the place was abuzz with happy people renewing old acquaintances. The setting was great, the view overlooking the golf course was beautiful, and the ambiance was fantastic. This was another 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.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THOSE ATTENDING THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Brenda Sykes was kind enough to take 162 photographs at the Holiday Luncheon and posted them in a Kodak Gallery online. Unless you know the people or can read the name tags, you'll have to guess who they are, but you can view the photographs directly at http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp;jsessionid=A5B5FAB3E6DF03263A3170034D2FAD04.ecom101_main?sourceId=533754321803&cm_mc=Share-_-Personal-_-Email-_-Sharee-_-Images&_requestid=205551. You can save the photographs after viewing by creating a free Kodak Gallery account.

COLA COUNT

Through three months of the counting period toward the January 2013 federal retiree cost of living adjustment, the inflation index used to set that adjustment stands at minus 0.48 percentage points below the 2011 third quarter average base index of 223.688. The current index stands at

222.166. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index's average from base period third calendar quarter to the latest. There are nine months left in the counting period. So far, no 2013 COLA.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The annual CMS Holocaust Memorial Program will be held in the auditorium at CMS Headquarters on April 19, 2012, at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Rubin Sztajer, a survivor of several concentration camps, will be the main speaker. There will be a service and a prayer commemorating the dead. The Krieger Schechter Day School's children's choir will again sing.

Any alumni interested in attending please contact Herb Hane via e-mail at herbgitta@verizon.net or via telephone at (410) 544-3244.

DONATION TO CFC



Angela Brice-Smith & Bill Engelhardt

The Alumni Board of Directors again 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 Alumni President Bill Engelhardt took advantage of the opportunity to publicly present a check for \$1,500 to Angela Brice-Smith, representing the 2011 CFC Campaign, 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.

RETIREE CFC CONTRIBUTIONS

The question has been asked, "Can federal retirees sign up to have Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) contributions withheld from their retirement annuity?"

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) answer is Yes. Federal retirees may participate in the CFC by making a one-time contribution (cash, check or money order). OPM does not currently have an annuity deduction option. For more information on how to make a contribution, contact your local CFC office at:

<http://www.opm.gov/cfc/Search/Locator.asp>

Apparently OPM is contemplating permitting CFC deductions from retirement annuities in the future. Some Alumni members have reported receiving an e-mail survey asking if they would be interested in participating if such an option were to become available. We are not sure about the source of the survey.

PAUL R. WILLGING ENDOWMENT
Submitted by Alumni Member Ron Carlson
(Member of the Endowment Oversight Group)

Paul W. Willging, Ph.D., who served as Deputy Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration and as Deputy Director for the Bureau of Program Operations during the 1970s and early 80s, died May 21 of last year at the age of 69 after losing a battle with cancer.

A Paul R. Willging Endowment has been established with the Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland for the purposes of enriching educational opportunities and providing scholarship support to students interested in pursuing careers in the delivery or management of long term services to seniors. During the last years of his life, Paul was especially active in the Howard County community that included serving as a member of the County's Commission on Aging, and Chairing the Howard County General Hospital and the Columbia Foundation. The Endowment will serve as a way by which his long-standing commitments to health care improvement and the elderly may be continued.

In addition to his years with the federal government, Dr. Willging was the former long-time President and CEO of the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living. He led the two organizations for more than 16 years. He received the Vesta Bowden Award for Outstanding Service to the Long Term Care Industry in 2000. More recently he served on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health and held the position of Associate Director of the University's Center on Aging and Health.

Those interested in contributing to the Willging Endowment may do so by donating through the website established for him via <http://paulwillgingendowment.org>.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS CHIEF OF STAFF

Aryana Khalid has been appointed to the position of CMS Chief of Staff. Aryana has served since June 2010 as a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Administrator (OA), where she has supported the CMS leadership with all aspects of operations and policy development. She previously worked as a Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Mark Warner, as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and was a COO Development Program Associate and Administrative Resident for the Hospital Corporation of America.

Caya Lewis, who had been serving as the Chief of Staff, will remain in OA as a Senior Advisor and will continue to play a key role in our Affordable Care Act implementation work. Additionally, she will oversee the Office of Legislation until a permanent director is hired and will take on special projects working with the Office of the Secretary and the White House.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Bennett Blodgett has moved from CCIIO to serve as a Special Assistant in Office of the Administrator. For the last year and a half, Bennett has led the CCIIO press efforts. Bennett previously worked for George Washington University as Assistant Director of Government Relations.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Melissa Starinsky has been selected as the SES Deputy Director of the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management (OAGM). Melissa has been in the Federal acquisition business for more than 22 years having served in senior acquisition and programmatic leadership roles, in both the public and private sectors. Melissa assumed the OAGM Acting Deputy Director position in November 2010.

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF LEGISLATION

Jennifer Boulanger has been appointed to serve as the Acting Director of the Office of Legislation. Jennifer has been the Deputy Director of the Office of Legislation for the past 2-1/2 years. She has been with CMS for more than 15 years both in Washington and in Baltimore and has over 8 years of experience in legislative affairs. She replaces Amy Hall, who has taken a position with the House Energy and Commerce Commission.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award has been presented to the following individuals:

Karen Owens, of the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality (OCSQ) in Baltimore MD. Karen is being recognized for this honor for exemplifying the Agency's operating values and successfully working to move the Survey and Certification Group to OCSQ.

Brenda Delgado, of the Chicago Regional Office. Brenda is being recognized for this honor for effectively promoting CMS' mission and program goals as a National Hispanic Spokesperson.

Christopher Thompson, of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services in Baltimore MD. Christopher is being recognized for this honor for outstanding, high quality efforts toward resolution of complex Medicaid funding and financial accountability issues.

Tonya Williams-Hardin, of the Dallas Regional Office. Tonya is being recognized for this honor for her initiative and commitment to expanding her knowledge to help co-workers address a never-ending stream of fee-for-service inquiries. As a result, she is a valuable member of multiple teams, including FOIA, MSP and beneficiary services.

David Alexander, of the Office of Information Services (OIS) in Baltimore. David is being recognized for this honor for his investigations into innovative technology which position the agency to be a world class organization.

Julie Brookhart, of the Kansas City Regional Office. Julie is being recognized for this honor for being innovative, dedicated and successful as the coordinator of the Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan outreach group in the Kansas City regional office.

Jacqueline Cipa, of the Office of Financial Management in Baltimore MD. Jacqueline is being recognized for this honor for her exceptional efforts to improve the Medicare Secondary Payer Program.

Linda Tran, of the Denver Regional Office. Linda is being recognized for this honor for always stepping up and volunteering for special projects and the constant need for immediate information. She also serves as a tremendous resource for all of her internal/external customers while maintaining a much heavier than average workload.

Michael Treitel, of the Center for Medicare in Baltimore MD. Michael is being recognized for this honor for sustained excellence in working to improve payment accuracy in the inpatient prospective payment system and beyond, most particularly with outlier reconciliation.

Mark Wong, of the San Francisco Regional Office. Mark is being recognized for this honor for his outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication as the Medicaid subject matter expert in the

area of institutional reimbursement.

Jeffrey Maready, of the Center for Medicare in Baltimore MD. Jeffrey is being recognized for this honor for extraordinary efforts planning for and implementing the new Annual Election Period.

CDR Hollie Cook, of the Seattle Regional Office. Hollie is being recognized for this honor for sustained excellence in teamwork and collaboration improving partner relations and ensuring pharmacies understand CMS' policies and instructions pertaining to Medicare Part D and patient access.

Diane Schoch, of the Office of Operations Management in Baltimore MD. Diane is being recognized for this honor for effectively coordinating and delivering the successful and highly attended 2011 CMS Honor Awards ceremony.

Mary Ford, of the Boston Regional Office. Mary is being recognized for this honor for demonstrating tenacity, personal initiative and commitment to accomplishing the CMS mission consistently working collaboratively with internal and external partners.

Jayne Hammen, of the Office of Minority Health in Baltimore MD. Jayne is being recognized for this honor for her unwavering support and passion to establish the mission and work to eliminate health disparities in the Office of Minority Health.

Dayle Berke, of the New York Regional. Dayle is being recognized for this honor for her continued excellence in facilitating and maintaining the Partnership meeting with the States of New York and New Jersey and for her dedication to learning new policies and training partners on the new CMS policies.

In recognition of their accomplishments, these employees have their pictures posted on the CMSNet.

KOMEDY KORNER

AAADD

Unknown

Recently, I was diagnosed with A. A. A. D. D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I

wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the trash can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the trash first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers...

Now I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

- the car isn't washed,
- the bills aren't paid,
- there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter,
- the flowers don't have enough water,
- there is still only one check in my check book,
- I can't find the remote,
- I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, --your day is coming!

BAD COMBINATIONS!

Many of us "Old Folks" (those over 60, WAY over 60, or hovering near 60) are quite confused about how we should present ourselves. We're unsure about the kind of image we are projecting and whether or not we are correct as we try to conform to current fashions. Despite what you may have seen on the streets, the following combinations DO NOT go together and should be avoided:

1. A nose ring and bifocals
2. Spiked hair and bald spots
3. A pierced tongue and dentures
4. Miniskirts and support hose
5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
6. Speedo's and cellulite
7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
10. Bikinis and liver spots
11. Short shorts and varicose veins
12. Inline skates and a walker
13. Thongs and Depends.

Please keep these basic guidelines foremost in your mind when you shop.

BITING NAILS

Two golden-agers were discussing their husbands over tea.

"I do wish that my Elmer would stop biting his nails. He makes me terribly nervous."

"My Billy used to do the same thing," the older woman replied. "But I broke him of the habit."

"How?"

"I hid his teeth."

TWO DIFFERENT DOCTORS' OFFICES

Boy, if this doesn't hit the nail on the head, we don't know what does!

Two patients limped into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both had trouble walking and appeared to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient was examined within the hour, was x-rayed the same day and had a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND saw his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waited 8 weeks to see a specialist, then got an x-ray, which wasn't reviewed for another week and finally had his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST was a Golden Retriever.

The SECOND was a Senior Citizen.

Next time take us to a vet!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

Grandpa and Grandma were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days," when Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?"

Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his.

With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?"

Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek.

Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?"

Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM SHAW BRUNSTETTER

On October 17, 2011, WILLIAM SHAW BRUNSTETTER passed away after a long battle with esophageal cancer. He is survived by his wife Barbara; son Craig; daughter-in-law Kelly; granddaughter MAC; stepsons Robert and Meghan Rix, and Justin and Jenny Rix; and grandson Jay Rix.

A Celebration of life Service was held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 4:00 PM at Bethany Lane Baptist Church, 3030 Bethany Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Friends were invited to celebrate at Bill's home after the church service.

Donations in Bill's memory may be made to The Anatomy Gifts Registry, www.anatomicgift.com, 7522 Connelley Drive, Suite M, Hanover, MD 21076.

Published in Baltimore Sun on October 20, 2011

ELMER W SMITH

Published in the Eagle Tribune.com, North Andover MA

January 18, 2012

Elmer W. Smith, 83

NORTH ANDOVER — Elmer W. Smith, 83, passed away on January 5, 2012 at the Sutton Hill Center in North Andover, after a long period of debilitation following a stroke in 2007.

Elmer was born on June 10, 1928 in Lambertville, NJ as the only son of Violet Mae Thatcher Smith and Elmer W. Smith.

After graduating as class president of the Lambertville High School, Class of 1946, he went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania, Drew University (graduating summa cum laude), Syracuse University, Oxford University, and Harvard's School of Government.

He worked for 35 years in the Federal Government under nine Presidents. During his career, he served as Regional Commissioner of the New York Region of Health, Education, and Welfare in New York City; Deputy Commissioner of Social Security in Woodlawn, Maryland; and retiring as Director, Office of Eligibility Policy for the Health Care Financing Administration (Medicare/Medicaid) in Woodlawn, Maryland.

He played a key role in improving health conditions and standards in New York state nursing homes in the early 1970s. He also attended the early World Aids Conferences as a representative

of the U.S. Government. His work took him to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and in retirement he also traveled widely, including to Canada, Russia, China, Australia and England. As a member of the vestry of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Catonsville, MD in the 1970s, he played an important role in selecting the first female rector in the Diocese of Maryland.

He stayed in contact with classmates from his home town throughout his life. Late in life he marveled that a boy from such a small town was able to meet such luminary figures such as Mother Theresa, Helen Keller, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson. He maintained a lifelong interest in the Lindbergh baby kidnapping trial, as his father served on the jury. He also enjoyed reading, coin collecting, bird watching, playing the piano, listening to classical music and solving the New York Times crossword puzzle.

He is survived by his 4 children and their spouses: Caroline Smith Webber and John Webber of North Andover, MA; Elliott Smith and Wendy Gilmore of San Francisco, CA; Eric Smith and Amy Borg of Holden, MA; David Smith and his wife Valerie of Annandale, VA; and his 5 grandchildren: Caroline, Talia and Nicholas Smith and Matthew and Elizabeth Webber. He was predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Caroline Crea Smith.

ARRANGEMENTS: A memorial service will be held at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm Street in North Andover on Saturday, January 21st at 12 noon. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be sent to The People's Pantry, c/o North Parish Unitarian Church, 190 Academy Road, North Andover, MA 01845; or to the Donald Bentley Food Pantry, 2405 Loch Raven Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21218.

Published in the Eagle Tribune.com, North Andover MA

BILL TOBY'S REMEMBRANCE OF ELMER SMITH—AN EXCEPTIONALLY INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE, AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

TOBY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

January 22, 2012

If there is a single dominant characteristic to describe Elmer Smith, it is that his first love was government service.

During his long professional life, he stood out as a policy expert on social welfare, social insurance programs, expert in all the Byzantine and arcane mysteries of Medicaid eligibility, and one who reveled in the twists and turns of government policy-making.

He was widely recognized as a master executive, outstanding theoretician on the workings of government, a superb negotiator, skilled writer, and a dazzling public speaker—a truly cerebral man.

Elmer had one other considerable talent that bears mention. He was an accomplished actor. While I never saw him perform, mutual friends of ours in Baltimore told me he had real talent and was a stand-out on stage, clearly enjoying his roles as an actor.

I am truly blessed to count Elmer Smith as a dear friend because he had a profound influence on my Federal career and life, serving as my mentor, teacher, and superior when I served as his principal deputy commissioner in the former Federal Social & Rehabilitation Service (SRS) of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), from 1971-1975, which was a tumultuous period for caretakers of unpopular social welfare programs.

This man taught me all the skills he possessed as a public administrator and painstakingly prepared me to assume his post as Regional Commissioner when he was elevated to a top policy-making role in the Social Security Administration in Baltimore in 1975 during the administration of President Gerald Ford. I soaked up all the knowledge he passed on and I am forever in his debt.

I first met Elmer Smith in early 1970 when I was a special assistant to the, then, HEW Regional Director Bernice L. Bernstein and he had joined our regional staff as the brash newly-appointed Commissioner of SRS. SRS was a social welfare agency staffed with experts in welfare administration, Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation programs, children programs, and programs for the elderly.

Elmer's reputation as the "golden boy" of HEW had preceded him. And those of us in Region II were curious to meet and know him since he was celebrated for having just established the HEW Regional Office in Philadelphia. This was a key initiative of, then, President Richard Nixon, which called for implementing the recommendations of his "Ash Commission" that recommended, among other things, the creation of 10 new regional boundaries.

As I look back, what made Elmer different was his extraordinary intellectual capacity and appetite for hard work. Indeed, "brilliance" is the adjective that springs to mind whenever I think of him. Because of this, he could be intimidating on first encounter due largely to his reputation as a "genius." He was also perceived as different from others because of his core beliefs that guided his life.

At the center of his fundamental belief system was personal responsibility, hard work, and strict discipline and focus. He detested anyone who made feeble excuses for failing to carry out a task or was ineptly lazy or lackadaisical.

When he was in his early 40s, he exuded brisk energy and a massive intelligence that intimidated his subordinates and superiors. Indeed, Elmer posed a double threat: he was a deep thinker and doer. He was also known to be well-read and a passionate lover of literature and history and he loved good food and fine wine.

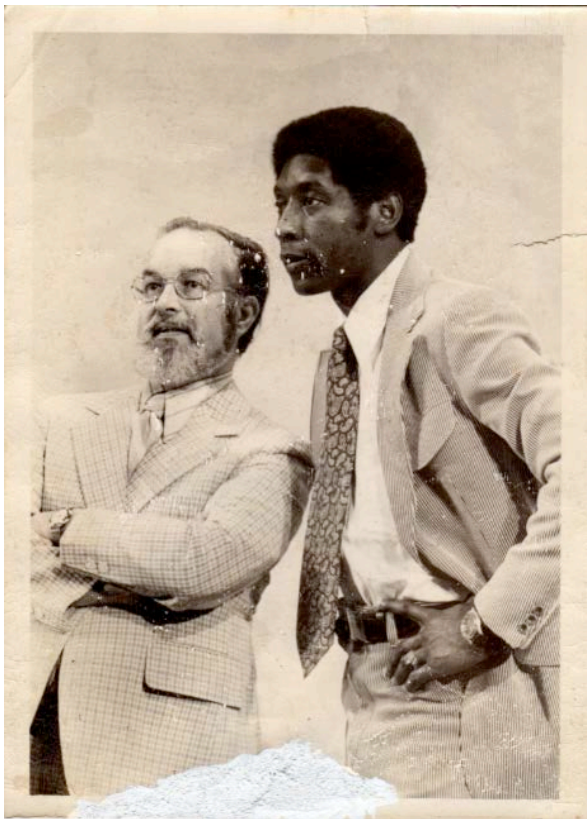
Near the end of his Federal career in 1992, Elmer encountered a startling inversion. In March of

1992, I was appointed Acting Administrator of the Federal Health Care Financing Administration, where Elmer was in “limbo” as director of Medicaid Eligibility Policy and found himself happy working closely again with his former SRS Deputy Commissioner.

Throughout his working life, Elmer contributed greatly to the early implementation and later management of the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Those of us who worked with him and the 98 million Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries owe him a debt of gratitude for his enormous contributions to public service.

Words are inadequate to express how much I will miss him and I am truly happy for him; and so thankful that he is no longer confined to a nursing home bed. Elmer was always too big to be contained.

William Toby Jr.



Elmer Smith & Bill Toby - 1973

JOHN EDWIN TYSSOWSKI

**John E. Tyssowski, businessman
He owned heating company in Howard**

By Frederick N. Rasmussen, The Baltimore Sun
2:37 p.m. EST, December 19, 2011

John Edwin Tyssowski, founder and owner of a Howard County heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration company, died Dec. 12 of an aortic dissection at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The Finksburg resident was 58.

Mr. Tyssowski, who was the son of Social Security Administration workers, was born in Larkspur, Calif., and at a young age, moved with his family to Catonsville.

He was a 1971 graduate of Catonsville High School, and two years later, married his high school sweetheart, the former Carol "Kim" Grenier.

Mr. Tyssowski worked at Ten Oaks Nursery, Pikesville landscaping company E.L. Glaser, and Keystone Refrigeration and Arbutus Refrigeration before founding his own company, Chill-Craft Co. Inc., in Hanover in 1982.

Family members said that Mr. Tyssowski went into business with "a truck, a pair of steel-toed shoes and his kitchen table for an office."

Mr. Tyssowski successfully expanded the business to include clients such as the federal government, hospitals, commercial businesses, clubs and restaurants.

Some of the local Baltimore restaurants where his company made HVAC installations included Jay's Restaurant Group, Biddle Street Catering and the Page Foreman-Wolf Restaurant Group.

Other projects included Johns Hopkins Hospital, the US Naval Academy, the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, the Willard Hotel and the National Institutes of Health.

He also designed and installed custom wine rooms for commercial and residential customers.

Mr. Tyssowski had not retired at his death.

He enjoyed home landscaping and gardening projects, and when traveling liked to visit local arboretums and take long hikes. For more than two decades, he had been a member of the Fairways Golf Club, where he enjoyed golfing.

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He was an avid Ravens fan and liked cooking for and entertaining family and friends.

A reception celebrating Mr. Tyssowski's life was held Saturday.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Luke Tyssowski of Finksburg; his mother, Mildred Lund Tyssowski of Baltimore; a brother, Joseph R.S. Tyssowski Jr. of Glenwood; a sister, Judy Tyssowski Wheatley of Nashville, Tenn.; and two Grandchildren.

fred.rasmussen@baltsun.com

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IN MEMORIAM

**The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges
the passing of the following
Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its
sympathy to family members:**

**WILLIAM SHAW BRUNSTETTER (10/17/11)*
LINSU L BRYSON (1/25/12)**
MIRIAM GOURLEY (4/7/11)***
HARRY R SANFORD (11/18/11)***
ELMER W SMITH (1/5/12)***
JOHN E TYSSOWSKI (12/12/11)******

* Husband of HCFA/CMS Alumni Association Member Barbara Brunstetter

**Mother of HCFA/CMS Alumni Association Member Richard Bryson

*** HCFA/CMS Retiree

**** Son of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Millie Tyssowski

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff
January 2012**