
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2013 (Vol. 19 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 136 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 23 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 670. 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 2013 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 new HealthCare.gov web site, a human interest story by Alumni member Mike Blank, and the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news (including a year end message from Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner). As usual, the Komey 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

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DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

Spring Issue – March 31, 2013

Summer Issue – June 30, 2013

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NEW MEMBERS

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

Martha Baziz
Ana Fernandez
Don Freeburger
Mark Freeland
Joseph W Gavin
Neil Gittings
Tom Grieves
Cindy Potter Hentz
Kathy Hession
Christopher Howe
Judy Hunt
Thomas M (Tom) Kickham
Marla K Kilbourne
Jo Ann Lacey
Robert Leister
Maria McMahan
Gary M Rhodes
Cindy Robinson
Michele Marie Sanders
Howard S. Schuffman
Mary Linda Morgan & Stewart Streimer
Ronald S & Vickie L Sutherland
Barbara Williamson

We now have 670 active members.

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In October 2012 the Board of Directors re-appointed incumbent board members Bill Engelhardt, Richard Faulstich, Bill Grant, and Bill Hogsten, whose terms were to expire on December 31, 2012, to another two-year term, ending December 31, 2014. The 4 members officially began their new two-year term at the Board Meeting on January 11, 2013.

The Board also unanimously elected the following officers, to serve for the calendar year 2013:

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2013 DUES

The collection of the annual dues for the year 2013, covering the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, continues. Enclosed with this issue of the Alumni News is the re-enrollment form (**but only for those 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 2013 dues. **If you have already paid your dues for 2013 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., 12/31/13. **If that date is 12/31/13 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 wengelhardt@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, 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://ssaeeaa.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

136 Alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon at Alexandra's Restaurant in the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club on December 12 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. 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 109 photographs at the Holiday Luncheon and posted them in a Shutterfly 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://share.shutterfly.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=da1416b3ee9377e5&sid=0JcuXLVwxZOJg>. You can save the photographs after viewing by creating a free Shutterfly account.

COLA COUNT

Through three months of the counting period toward the January 2014 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. Should the count finish in negative territory for the full 12 months, benefits would remain the same and

would NOT be reduced. That happened twice in recent years.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The annual CMS Holocaust Memorial Program will be held in the auditorium at CMS Headquarters on April 11, 2013, at 10:30 A.M. Mr. Morris Rosen will be the main speaker. The theme is "Experiences of a Survivor." 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

The Alumni Board of Directors again decided that a donation to the CMS 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 Daniel Schreiner, Chairman of the 2012 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.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR'S YEAR END MESSAGE

As we begin a New Year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your outstanding work on behalf of the American people in 2012. This year was not without its challenges, but we not only met them, working together, we continued to improve the health and healthcare of millions of Americans, while strengthening our own programs.

I was particularly proud of our Agency's response to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Working to ensure that individuals in areas battered by the storm continued to receive the health care and health coverage they needed, our Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations provided timely information and assistance. We also quickly issued waivers of certain requirements for facilities coping with the effects of the storm and extended the Medicare Open Enrollment period for areas of New York and New Jersey.

As we coped with unforeseen challenges, we also stayed on track to fully implement the ACA, the most important expansion of healthcare for the American people since the creation of Medicare. In just the past month, we granted conditional approval to ten states and the District

of Columbia to operate State-based Health Insurance Marketplaces, the heart of the ACA. One state has been given conditional approval to operate a State Partnership Marketplace. Additionally, we have eight states currently under review for conditional approval to operate a State-based Marketplace, and one state under review to operate a State Partnership Marketplace.

Under the ACA, and thanks in large part to your outstanding efforts implementing its provisions, this year people on Medicare saved \$5 billion on prescription drugs. Additionally, 54 million Americans got at least one free preventive service through their private health insurance plans. Consumers also saved \$1.1 billion in 2012, because insurers are now required to provide rebates if they do not spend at least 80 percent of premiums on care.

We also saw success in so many other areas throughout CMS. For example, we awarded nearly \$306 million in CHIPRA performance bonuses to 23 states that have made progress in enhancing access to health coverage for children in Medicaid and CHIP programs.

To help dual Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries, among our most vulnerable populations, the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents awarded grants to seven sites. And three states, Massachusetts, Washington, and Ohio, have been selected to participate in the Financial Alignment Initiative Demonstrations.

In other Medicaid efforts, we announced the final rule to deliver higher payments to primary care physicians serving Medicaid beneficiaries. We finalized the Community First Choice rule, giving states increases in federal Medicaid matching funds for providing community based services to beneficiaries who would otherwise be confined to nursing homes, and we provided new grant funds to states to keep people out of institutions and in their communities. We also announced that we will be issuing a new rule explicitly including HIV/AIDS on the list of chronic conditions that every state may target when designing Health Homes to provide coordinated care for Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health needs.

Innovation has certainly been key to so much of our work in 2012, and the Innovation Center launched major initiatives such as the Health Care Innovations Awards, which support 107 innovative projects in every state in the country; the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative, which is working to strengthen care through novel public-private partnerships; and the Strong Start Initiative, which is a nationwide partnership with leading clinical and advocacy groups to improve the health of new mothers and their infants.

We also opened our new, state-of-the-art CMS Program Integrity Command Center. It is bringing together CMS analysts and investigators, as well as law enforcement partners from other agencies, to better coordinate efforts, and it is speeding up the process of identifying fraud, and stopping criminals from defrauding Medicare and Medicaid. This year, we announced a record recovery of \$4.1 billion in taxpayer dollars, up from a little more than \$1 billion four years ago. Additionally, in its first year of operation, the Fraud Prevention System initiated 536 new investigations and helped stop, prevent, or identify an estimated \$115 million in fraudulent payments.

These accomplishments, although significant, represent only a fraction of our work and a few of our successes in 2012. But there is one more I must mention. Thanks to your generosity, this year CMS raised more than \$61,000 for CFC, surpassing our goal by more than \$13,000 and raising more than last year to help the neediest and most vulnerable in our local communities and the global community.

As we look forward to the coming year, I have no doubt that we will continue to build upon our success. In particular, we have the considerable task of ensuring that the Health Insurance Marketplaces are open for business on October 1, 2013, allowing all Americans to sign up for health insurance and enjoy the security, peace of mind, and better health that comes with having health coverage.

It is a great privilege to lead this Agency and to work with all of you. Your commitment to our mission, and to the American people, is not only exemplary it is extraordinary. Thank you, again, for all of your efforts, and I want to wish all of you a most happy and healthy New Year.

Marilyn Tavenner
Acting Administrator

PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

On September 30, the White House announced the winners of the 2012 Presidential Rank Awards. These awards are presented to a very select group of career civil service executives and senior leaders whose integrity, strength, leadership, and sustained performance have earned them one of the most prestigious honors in government. Recipients are selected after being nominated by their agency and undergoing a rigorous review process that includes evaluation by private citizens. The two award categories include the Distinguished Rank Award, awarded for achieving extraordinary results through their executive careers, and the Meritorious Rank Award, given for sustained accomplishment.

The Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive was awarded to:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

James W. Weber

Acting CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner remarked:

Recently, the White House announced the winners for 2012, and I am especially proud to announce that our very own James (Jim) Weber is the winner of the “Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive” Award. Jim’s unwavering commitment towards customer service, his outstanding leadership, and his ability to effectively build partnerships and successfully manage the Agency’s portfolio are just a few of the reasons why he is so deserving of such a prestigious honor. Jim always strives to take a “corporate”

view and reach across all parts of CMS in support of the many activities and challenges facing the Agency. I could not be more delighted that he was selected for this prestigious honor.

Please join me in congratulating Jim for this truly incredible and well-deserved accomplishment.

CMS ACTING CHIEF ACTUARY

Paul Spitalnic has been named as the Acting Chief Actuary of CMS. CMS' Chief Actuary, Rick Foster announced his retirement effective at the end of January. Paul joined CMS in 2003 and led the actuarial efforts to implement the new Part D program. Since 2006, Paul has held the position of Director of the Parts C & D Actuarial Group. Prior to joining CMS, he worked as a Consulting Actuary focusing on retiree health insurance issues. Paul is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries and has a B.A. in Mathematics from Binghamton University.

EXCHANGE ELIGIBILITY APPEALS OFFICE

Mark Loper, most recently Director of the Office of Enterprise Management, has assumed a new leadership role in establishing a new exchange eligibility appeals office within CMS.

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT

Dave Nelson, Deputy Director for Policy in the Office of Enterprise Management, has agreed to assume the role of Acting Director of the Office of Enterprise Management. Prior to Dave's work in OEM, he served as the Director of the Data Analytics and Control Group (DACG) for CMS' Center for Program Integrity.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

Clarese Astrin, of the Office of Communications in Baltimore MD. Clarese is being recognized for contributions to the consumer research programs that help CMS improve the health and quality of life of those we serve.

Patricia Lowry, of the Philadelphia Regional Office. Patricia is being recognized for ensuring Medicare beneficiaries receive the excellent customer service they deserve and the health care benefits they are entitled to.

Laura Hernandez, of the Office of Public Engagement in Baltimore MD. Laura is being recognized for her continued dedication and going above and beyond her assigned workload throughout the year.

Gary Critelli, of the New York Regional Office. Gary is being recognized for his exemplary work analyzing the New York State Medicaid's school-based health services program and coordinating the efforts of all Federal and State parties.

LaTasha Douglas, of the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs in Baltimore MD. LaTasha is being recognized for consistently processing the Agency's executive level correspondence in an outstanding manner on a daily basis.

James Holt, of the Atlanta Regional Office. James is being recognized for his contributions in formulating a plan and successfully implementing relocation of the Miami Field Office.

Pamela Pelizzari, of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation in Baltimore MD. Pamela is being recognized for leading outreach and technical assistance activities, numerous webinars, and preparing multiple policy briefings for Bundled Payments for the Care Improvement Initiative.

JoAnn Passarelli, of the Chicago Regional Office. JoAnn is being recognized for the exemplary customer service she provides to our Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries by resolving their health care access and payment concerns.

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

HEALTHCARE.GOV LAUNCHED

In preparation for the enrollment of millions of Americans through the new Health Insurance Marketplace, HealthCare.gov has been launched to include new information about the Marketplace, where families and small businesses will be able to easily compare and purchase high-quality health insurance plans starting October 1, 2013, with coverage beginning January 1, 2014.

DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, in a message to colleagues, said:

I'm so proud of the incredible work our department has done over the last two years to implement the Affordable Care Act. And today, I want to ask even more of you. Be a part of getting America covered. It ALL begins with YOU.

Starting today, you can help get the word out about the Marketplace and HealthCare.gov to your family members, your neighbors and your networks. Tell them it's not too soon to check out the

site for tips and things they can do now to prepare for enrollment in October. And, to make sure to sign up for emails or text message updates, so they don't miss a thing when it's time to enroll

When key parts of the health care law take effect, individuals will be able to go to HealthCare.gov to buy insurance from qualified private health plans and check if they are eligible for financial assistance all in one place, with a single application. Many people will be eligible for a new kind of tax credit to help pay their premium costs. If a state is running its own Marketplace, HealthCare.gov will direct people to the right place.

Thanks to you, hard-working families across the country will be able to get the security of affordable health insurance coverage and the care they deserve.

SSA's MY SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT

The Social Security Administration has announced the agency is expanding the services available with a *my Social Security* account, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits. More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can now access their benefit verification letter, payment history, and earnings record instantly using their online account. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients with a *my Social Security* account can go online and get an official benefit verification letter instantly. The benefit verification letter serves as proof of income to secure loans, mortgages and other housing, and state or local benefits. Additionally, people use the letter to prove current Medicare health insurance coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. People can print or save a customized letter.

People age 18 and older can sign up for an account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Once there, they must be able to provide information about themselves and answers to questions that only they are likely to know. After completing the secure verification process, people can create a *my Social Security* account with a unique user name and password to access their information.

A TRIP BUILT AROUND A BOWL OF CHICKEN SOUP

By Mike (Grandpa Mikee) Blank

PRE P.S.: Filling in where memory fails. Adding a little here and a little dialogue there. This study may not have happened exactly this way – but it might have happened this way.

Long ago in a galaxy far away, I was working for Medicare. I was working in an office that dealt with health and safety surveys of hospitals nursing homes and laboratories. All hospitals, no matter their size, had to meet the same health and safety requirements, except for the size of

their staffs.

One day, a voice came down from above. That voice said that, maybe, small hospitals (100 beds or less) should not have to meet the same health and safety requirements as large hospitals. So, a contract was signed with the A. O. Little Company, an international consulting firm, directing them to develop a proposed survey for small hospitals.

I was given the assignment to work with the A. O. Little Company to develop the proposed survey. After a number of draft surveys were reviewed and rewritten, a final draft was accepted. We then had to test the proposed survey to see if it should be adopted.

So, my boss, Stan Rosenfeld, pulled out a map of the United States to look for some small hospitals that could be used as test cases. While checking the map, Stan remembered a delicious bowl of chicken soup he once had in a small delicatessen in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Arkansas State Capital. We then tried to locate a small hospital somewhere in the vicinity of Little Rock. We found one in a town called Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

We sent a copy of the proposed survey to the Arkansas State Health Department, which was under contract to Medicare to conduct Federal health and safety surveys. We instructed them to schedule one of the proposed surveys at the Arkadelphia hospital and to set up a meeting with us the day before the survey.

Stan and I and a representative from the A. O. Little Company flew to the Little Rock airport the day before the survey. We rented a car at the airport and drove to the State Capital to meet with the survey team. We went over the survey with them and answered any questions they had.

Around 6 o'clock, after the meeting was over, we had to drive to a motel in Arkadelphia. I told Stan I would drive (Big Mistake). There were no GPS's at that time. All we had was a map to find the motel.

As we (me) started driving, we ran into a huge storm. There was thunder. There was lightning. There was rain. There was hail. There were heavy winds. We were driving on small country roads with just one lane in each direction. The windshield wipers couldn't work fast enough to keep the windshield clear. The wind blew the car from one side of the road to the other side of the road. The hail sounded like rocks were hitting all sides of the car. Thunderclaps shook the car. Headlights of cars and trucks driving on the other side of the road were often blinding. It may have been my imagination, but, I thought I heard prayers being recited in Hebrew and Latin.

Finally, we found the motel. We (me) pulled in and ran to the office. By this time, I was, literally, trembling and drenched with nervous sweat. After we signed in, the motel clerk told us we had to drive to the back of the motel to find our rooms. Stan then put his arm around me and said, "It's OK Mike. I'll drive it from here." Up to that time, I considered Stan a friend.

P. S. On the way back we did find the delicatessen and the chicken soup was delicious. Though

I still question if it was worth the trip.

P. S., P. S. That proposed survey was not adopted and, more importantly, I never, ever, went on a trip with Stan again.

KOMEDY KORNER

GERIATRIC DIVORCE

An old couple came up before the judge in a divorce proceeding. Seeing how absolutely ancient they were, the judge just had to ask their ages.

"Well, your honor," the old man said, "I'm 99 and my wife here is 97."

"Wow," the judge said. "How long have you been married?"

"I married Pearl three days after she turned sixteen, so that would be a little over 81 years."

"Eighty-one years?!" the judge said, incredulous.

"Eighty-one years of pure torture," the old man corrected.

The judge was stunned. "If it was 81 years of pure torture, why didn't you file for divorce sooner?"

"Well, your honor," the gentleman said, "I guess we have to admit it, we were waiting for the kids to die."

GOD GIVING OUT YEARS

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

"Entertain people"

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did?"

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves.

For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family.

For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.

And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GRANDCHILDREN

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter - as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"

I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye.

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him - 62.

My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair.

As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room - putting them back to bed with stern warnings.

As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire, it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?"

I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about," he asked?

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read yet."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me - and was always correct. It was fun for me - so I continued.

At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside - to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did - Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."

10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

The grandmother, more than a little surprised - tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

11. Children's logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher.

The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant."

The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked.

"Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog.

The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.

"No," said another. "He's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth!

He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

15. My Grandparents are funny. When they bend over you hear gas leaks - and they blame their dog.

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS JOSEPH CHASE

On December 11, 2012, Francis Joseph Chase "Frank" of Columbia, MD, beloved husband of 50 years to Carole Chase; devoted father of Amy Chase of Annapolis, MD; loving brother of Margaret Whitehouse of Dover, NH; and cherished grandfather of Grace Drago. Mr. Chase was involved in many community activities including Common Cause of MD, United Seniors, and National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He was active in Dartmouth Alumni Association and class of 1955 activities. He was a lifelong Democrat and was a member of the Columbia Democratic Club, volunteering on campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. A member of SABR, Frank was a longtime fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles. In 2001, Frank was inducted into MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, received Outstanding volunteer of the year Award.

Family and friends are invited to call at the Witzke Funeral Homes Inc. 45555 Twin Knolls Road. Columbia, MD 21045 on Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8pm. Where Funeral Services will be held Friday at 10:00 am. Interment in Columbia Memorial Park. For those desiring, donations may be made to Gilchrist Hospice Care, Howard County Community Action Council, or Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Online condolences may be made at www.witzkefuneralhomes.com.

MICHAEL W MAHER

MICHAEL W MAHER, age 73, passed away with his family by his side on October 18, 2012. Beloved husband of 46 years of Carol L. (nee Lieberman). Dear father of David Maher and Heather Maher Hickey (Erich). Brother of Mary Nugent, Joseph Maher and the late James Maher. Also survived by his grandchildren Caitlin, Liam, Bridget and Clare.

Michael was born July 31, 1939 in Brooklyn, NY to the late James Vincent Maher and Margaret Cummins Maher. He attended Fairfield University and law school at Fordham law. He found his true passion in healthcare consulting and paved the way for healthcare reform. Michael was beloved by everyone that he touched. He was a remarkable man, husband, father and grandfather. He was kind, gentle, logical, bright, wise, courageous and always positive. Michael was and will continue to be a source of inspiration for his children and wife. His family is incredibly grateful for him.

Relatives and friends are invited to a Graveside Service, Thursday, October 25, 2012 2:00 P.M. Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Heart Association, 1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 555 North Lane, Suite 5010, Conshohocken, PA 19428 would be appreciated.

The obituary with a photo is available at: www.donohuefuneralhome.com.

HAROLD HETHERINGTON TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL W MAHER

I cannot tell you how sad I am to inform you of Mike Maher's death on 10/18. I have attached the obituary that was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Mike was a great guy. He started with SSA as a claims representative in 1961 and worked in the Perth Amboy, NJ district office. After a few years there he did a stint in the Army and I believe came back to SSA to work in the financial management area. During that time he became Deputy to Alberta Eideman, SSA's Budget Officer and then came to Medicare as the Director of the Office of Reimbursement Policy. Mike was involved in many aspects of reimbursement policy but his greatest achievement was the development of a new payment methodology for hospitals called the Prospective Payment System. He accomplished this with several of his talented employees and Mike reported their work directly to the Secretary of HHS. In the eighties Mike left government and began working as a partner/consultant for Coopers and Lybrand. I never knew anyone who did not hold Mike in high esteem. His friendship was a rewarding experience. I was able to attend his grave-side burial and console his family as well as meet numerous friends and business associates who also attended.

HENRY EUGENE RICHTER

Henry Eugene Richter, fondly remembered as Gene, Geno, Dad, and Pop Pop died on December 14, 2012. He was 79 years old. He is survived by his wife of fifty four years, Patricia Anne (Gangi) Richter; his children Stephanie (Richter) Sand, Timothy Richter, and Jacqueline Richter from Maryland, and Matthew Richter from Delaware; their spouses; and his five grandchildren, Julia, Ryan, Christina, Katie, and Logan; he is also survived by his brother Robert and his wife; numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends, all of whom he cherished. On September 8,

1933 he was born in Baltimore and lived in Maryland throughout his life. As a graduate in 1951 from Towson High School he went on to graduate from the University of Baltimore in 1955 with a degree in Accounting. After serving his country that he loved for two years in the military he was married to the love of his life in 1958. When he retired in December 2010 he was honored for fifty years of service in the government of the United States of America. He will be missed this Christmas and every special occasion thereafter where family and friends are gathered. Family, friends and faith were his life's work.

Relatives and friends are invited to viewings at Schimunek Funeral Home of Bel Air Inc, 610 W. MacPhail Rd., Bel Air, MD, 21014, on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 PM. A funeral mass will be held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hydes, Maryland on Thursday at 10 AM. Interment will take place at Highview Memorial Gardens, immediately following mass. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Henry may be directed to support the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Please make checks payable to John Hopkins University. Gifts may be mailed with a memo that this gift is in memory of Henry Eugene Richter to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, 100 North Charles St, suite 234, Baltimore, MD, 21201, or make a gift online.

Published in Baltimore Sun on December 16, 2012

NATHANIEL M PIGMAN, JR

Nathaniel M. Pigman, Jr., 92, a long time Edgewater resident, died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure October 15 in Columbia, surrounded by his family.

Born Feb. 29, 1920 in Bremerton, WA., he traveled extensively as a child, spending time in China and the Philippines as his father served in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Pigman graduated from the University of Virginia in 1941 with a B.A. and attended law school there for 2 years. He was admitted to the Virginia Bar but never practiced law. He received a master's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and worked as an economist and mathematical statistician for a number of employers in the government and private sectors, including the War Assets Administration, Mine Safety Appliance Company, the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, and the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, formerly the Health Care Financing Administration. He also taught at a number of colleges and universities, including the State College of Washington, Temple University, Duquesne University and Dundalk Community College.

He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his wife of 55 years, Irene L. Pigman, and cared for her at home when she was stricken with Parkinson's disease. He had many interests, including playing classical and flamenco guitar, painting watercolors and pastels, growing tomatoes,

Page 20

making wine, sailing, hunting for shark teeth along the Chesapeake Bay, and visiting with his family.

Surviving him are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Natalie and Scott Wrigley of Glastonbury, Ct., Hannah and Kevan Davenport of Columbia, Joy McIntyre of Derwood, and Susan Pigman of Columbia; sister, Arzelie J. Pigman of Portland,

OR.; six grandchildren, Sammy and Owen Wrigley, Grace and Christopher Davenport, and Kaitlin and Brian McIntyre; and great-grandson, Zachary Williamson.

The memorial service was private.

Arrangements entrusted to Witzke Funeral Home in Columbia.

Published in The Capital on October 27, 2012

IN MEMORIAM

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

**FRANCIS JOSEPH CHASE (12/11/12)*
ROBERT MILTON “BOB” DICKERSON, SR (12/11/12)**
HENRY EUGENE RICHTER (12/14/12)**
MICHAEL W MAHER (10/18/12)**
KAREN PARKER (10/26/12)**
NATHAN M PIGMAN, JR (10/15/12)***

* HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

** HCFA/CMS Retiree

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff
January 2013**