
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

SUMMER 2009 (Vol. 15 No. 3)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, Memorial Day and the 4th of July have come and gone and Labor Day seems right around the corner. Let's all enjoy the best of the rest of the summer.

I am pleased that the association continues to attract new members. On page 2 you will see a list of 3 new members, bringing the current membership to 549.

In this issue you will find items about the COLA Count, our own Don Joy's induction into the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame, Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) updates, green gardening tips, uses of cinnamon and honey, articles about the deaths of the first HCFA Administrator, Robert A Derzon, and the longest serving employee, Dan Baker, and senior management announcements. We again serve up some whimsical pieces in the Komedie Korner. There are lots of items that hopefully will be of interest to you.

We are also enclosing a new 2009 Member Directory, as we try to do with each Summer issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News.

And don't forget the Summer Cookout on Thursday August 13 at Walt Schauer's home (see details on enclosed flier). The basement is finished and air conditioned, and right off the patio and pool, so don't be stopped by hot weather. Too far away to attend! As always, we'll down a cool one in your honor.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful Rest Of The Summer 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

Fall Issue – September 25, 2009

Winter Issue – December 31, 2009

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NEW MEMBERS

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

Lorna D. Evans
Winona Hocutt
Brenda B. Streets

We now have 549 active members.

NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY

As promised periodically and usually delivered with the Summer issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News, you will find a completely new Member Directory enclosed with this issue. It includes up-to-date information for all currently active members. The address, telephone number and e-mail address of the HCFA/CMS Alumni Association is all right on the picturesque cover.

We encourage members to keep us informed of changes so that we can in turn keep everyone up to date. E-mail addresses seem to be particularly subject to change or elimination. And we are happy to learn about new e-mail addresses as members join the wonderful world of cyberspace. Our high tech savvy membership boasts 471 members with an e-mail address, and there may be others that we are not aware of. If you have one and we don't know it, please send us an e-mail or otherwise advise us of it. We'd like to include you when we send out periodic (but infrequent so as not to intrude) messages of interest.

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 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. HCFA/CMS Alumni President Bill Engelhardt is one of those people and belongs to both.

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.

COLA COUNT

Through eight months of the counting period toward the January 2010 federal retiree cost of living adjustment, the inflation index used to set that adjustment stands at a negative 3.1 percentage points, following previously reported drops in October, November and December and increases in January, February and March and an increase of 0.3% in April, and 0.40% in May. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index's average from one-third calendar quarter to the next. Should the index stay in negative territory for the entire period, there is no provision for reducing annuities so there just would be no COLA in January of 2010. There are 4 months left in the counting period.

SUMMER PICNIC

If you missed the mention of it in the President's Message on the first page, or the flier giving the details, here is another reminder that we will have the annual summer picnic at the home of founder and original Alumni President Walter B. Schauer mann. Join us for a fun get together from Noon to 4PM on Thursday August 13, 2009.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (OEA) DIRECTOR

Teresa Niño has joined the CMS leadership team as the Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA). Ms. Niño has over 20 years of experience directing strategic communications and marketing initiatives for organizational success. Ms. Niño comes to CMS from the National Trauma Institute in San Antonio, Texas, a national non-profit organization, where she served as the Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs. Prior to this position, Ms. Niño was the Director of Marketing for the San Antonio Express-News, where she oversaw a budget of \$2.6

million, provided executive direction for promotions and events, and championed the implementation of business-to-business initiatives and projects.

CENTER FOR MEDICAID AND STATE OPERATIONS (CMSO) DIRECTOR

Cindy J. Mann has rejoined the CMS leadership team as Director, Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO). Previously she was a Research Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute. She has decades of experience in health care financing at the federal and state level, and a vast knowledge of health care policy. Previously, she served as Director of the Family and Children's Health Programs Group at HCFA, now CMS from 1999-2001, where she played a key role in implementing Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. She also holds a law degree from New York University School of Law.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

April 27, 2009

Linda Dauses, of the Office of Financial Management in Baltimore, MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Linda is being recognized for this honor for her outstanding leadership and analytical work on the MIPPA operating plan, the ARRA HIT administrative cost template and the CMS response to the FY 2010 OMB passback.

Stephanie Horn-Barbour, of the Office of Policy in Washington, DC, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Stephanie is being recognized for this honor for her significant contributions to the Office of Policy. She does an outstanding job of keeping the office running smoothly by consistently juggling a wide variety of requests that help keep the office and agency work organized.

May 11, 2009

Marie Wagner-Clarke, of the Boston Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Marie is being recognized for this honor for her work on the HHS Secretary's initiative on Better Quality Information and for providing outstanding support as the project officer.

May 26, 2009

Nora Fleming, of the Center for Medicare Management in Baltimore, MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Nora is being recognized for this honor for successfully meeting the challenges of developing multiple payment rate and adjustment options for the inpatient prospective payment system proposed rule within very tight timeframes.

Maria Martinez, of the New York Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Maria is being recognized for this honor for her consistent commitment to provide outstanding customer service from the Puerto Rico Field Office to educate, inform and train the Medicare community in collaboration with external partners.

June 8, 2009

Aaron Lartey, of the Office of Beneficiary Information Services in Baltimore, MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Aaron is being recognized for this honor for his dedication and hard work on the Physician and Other Healthcare Professional Directory tool on the www.medicare.gov website.

Lawrence Chosed, of the Philadelphia Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Lawrence is being recognized for this honor for consistently clearing pending external audits in advance of the deadline and for resolving a \$22 million difference in the cash account of a Medicare contractor.

June 22, 2009

Naomi Rappaport, of the Center for Drug and Health Plan Choice in Baltimore, MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Naomi is being recognized for this honor for sustained effectiveness and diligence in ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries throughout the United States and Puerto Rico receive accurate Medicare cards on a timely basis.

Larry Clemonts, of the Atlanta Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Larry is being recognized for this honor for his exceptional efforts developing and providing valued customer service implementing CMS initiatives for Medicare providers.

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

DONALD V. JOY INDUCTED INTO CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Alumni member Donald V. Joy has been inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in Carroll County Maryland. The following article, by Aaron Wilson, appeared in the Carroll County Times on April 15, 2009.



Carroll Hall of Fame: ‘Fireball Joy’ lifts his way to accolades

Donald V. Joy never met a piece of heavy metal he didn’t like, and few that he couldn’t hoist.

The 77-year-old strongman is a champion power lifter who bench pressed 335 pounds two years ago, hefting 360 pounds at age 69 and 370 pounds off his chest at age 65.

The Westminster resident has won more than 100 trophies and plaques over the past few decades in weightlifting.

For his myriad accomplishments, Joy is being inducted into the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame on Friday at Carroll Community College along with football coach Urban Bowman, basketball coach David Byers, football and track star Rob Johnson, runner Steve Kartalia, and archer Mary Sanders.

“I think it’s quite an honor to be selected,” Joy said. “It’s just great to be in the Hall of Fame. I’m glad to be one of them now.”

Joy was named Comeback Lifter of the Year last year and has won the bench press contest and best lifter titles at Westminster Family and Recreation Center over age 70 for the past four years.

He still competes in bench press, barbell curl and dead lift competitions.

“It has been most gratifying being involved in the sport,” Joy said. “I’m pretty proud of what I’ve done.”

Joy, who once set a school record with 345 points during the 1949 season at St. Joseph’s High School and a CYO basketball scoring record with 52 points in a game, also struck out 16 batters in a baseball game to earn the nickname, “Fireball Joy.”

Joy has set several state and world records as a Masters weight lifter in bench press competitions.

He has also earned more than 90 gold and silver medals in the shot put, discus, race walk, hammer throw, weight throw and softball competitions at the Maryland Senior Olympics.

“I’ve been involved for a long time,” Joy said. “I love to compete. For me, it’s a lot of fun.”

GREEN GARDENING TIPS

From “This Just In – Monthly News for CMS Employees”

Try low water gardening by purchasing drought resistant plants that use less water, tend to be hardier, and are better able to stand up to weather extremes, pests, and other abuses.

Mulch your garden heavily, approximately 6 inches deep, to retain water in the soil. Mulch doesn't have to be expensive—many gardeners use newspaper, though not glossy print. In addition to keeping the plant moist, it keeps down weeds and pests.

Water with soaker hoses that can be purchased in any large hardware store. Bury the soaker hose under the mulch winding it around the roots of your plants. This will minimize water loss due to evaporation and keep moisture in the soil where it is needed. Also, try to water in the morning. Wet plants may rot due to the cooler night weather when you water in the evening.

FLTCIP ENROLLMENT PERIOD EXPECTED IN FALL □

FEDweek.com advises that changes in offerings in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) under a newly issued contract likely will be available this fall, with new premium rates for some enrollees probably effective at the start of calendar year 2010, according to OPM. Once the new benefit options are available the current benefit structure will not be available to new enrollees--eligible persons still can enroll under the current terms of the program until that time--and existing enrollees will be given a chance during an open season to make changes to their coverage if they wish. Current enrollees will be sent information describing their choices that will include: remaining with current benefits, subject to premium increases in some cases; making changes in benefits that would allow them to keep premiums about the same, although at a reduced benefit level such as choosing a shorter benefit period; or choosing new benefit options without having to undergo underwriting. An announcement regarding exact dates is to come later. Enrollees also could choose to cancel their coverage, although they would not receive a refund for premiums already paid in if they did so.

NEW FLTCIP PREMIUMS DETAILED

OPM also has added details regarding the earlier announced benefit and premium changes under

the new contract, which is to run seven years. Premiums will not increase for current enrollees who selected the "future purchase option" on inflation coverage. However, for those who chose automatic inflation coverage, premiums will increase according to the person's age when the insurance was purchased--specifically, by 5 percent for those who were age 69, 10 percent for those who were age 68, 15 percent for those who were age 67, 20 percent for those who were age 67 and 25 percent for those who were age 65 and younger. There will be no increase for those who purchased that coverage at age 70 and older.

OPM said the increases were necessary because law requires that rates be sufficient to cover the expected cost of benefits, and some of the original assumptions underlying the premium and benefit structure proved to be incorrect--including the returns on program investments and the share of people who drop out after enrolling. OPM said the number of enrollees did not play a role in the premium increases. There are about 224,000 current enrollees, out of an estimated eligible population of some 20 million federal employees, retirees and certain family members and similarly situated persons in the military community.

NEW FLTCIP OFFERINGS DETAILED

The new benefit offerings will include: higher home health care reimbursement, up to 100 percent of the daily benefit amount; the choice of a two-year benefit period, in addition to the current options for three years, five years or lifetime coverage; higher daily benefit amounts, available from \$100 to \$450 in \$50 increments, compared with the current range of \$50 to \$300 in \$25 increments; coverage for up to 500 days for informal care provided by family members who do not normally live with the insured rather than 365 days; a waiting period based on calendar days; and coverage for bed reservations up to 60 days. Current enrollees who elect from among these benefits will pay premiums at a lower rate than what will apply to their current age, to take into account that they have paid premiums under the original benefit structure.

USES OF CINNAMON & HONEY

Submitted by Marion J. Seabrooks

An article in the January 17, 1995 issue of the Weekly World News Magazine from Canada extolled the virtues of Cinnamon and Honey. It provided the following list of diseases that can be cured, as researched by western scientists (we here at the Alumni office don't have any scientific evidence to support or refute these claims so provide them for your own consideration):

Arthritis:

Arthritis patients may daily, morning and night, take one cup of hot water with two spoons of honey and one small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. If drunk regularly even chronic arthritis can be cured. In a recent research done at the Copenhagen University, it was found that when the doctors treated their patients with a mixture of one tablespoon Honey and half teaspoon

cinnamon powder before breakfast, they found that within a week out of the 200 people so treated practically 73 patients were totally relieved from pain and within a month, mostly all the patients who could not walk or move around because of arthritis started walking without pain.

Hair Loss:

Those suffering from hair loss or baldness, may apply a paste of hot olive oil, one tablespoon of honey, one teaspoon of cinnamon powder before bath and keep it for approximately 15 minutes and then wash the hair. It was found very effective if kept for 5 minutes also.

Bladder Infections:

Take two tablespoons of cinnamon powder and one teaspoon of honey in a glass of luke warm water and drink it. It destroys the germs of the bladder.

Toothache:

Make a paste of one teaspoon of cinnamon powder and five teaspoons of honey and apply on the aching tooth. This may be done 3 times a day daily till such time that the tooth has stopped aching.

Cholesterol:

Two tablespoons of honey and three teaspoons of Cinnamon Powder mixed in 16 ounces of tea water, if given to a cholesterol patient, it reduces the level of cholesterol in the blood by 10% within 2 hours. As mentioned for arthritis, if taken 3 times a day any chronic cholesterol is cured. As per the information received in the journal, pure honey taken with food daily relieves complains of cholesterol.

Colds:

Those suffering from common or severe colds should take one tablespoon luke warm honey with 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon powder daily for 3 days. This process will cure most chronic cough, cold and clear the sinuses.

Upset Stomach:

Honey taken with cinnamon powder cures stomach ache and also clears stomach ulcers from the root.

Gas:

According to the studies done in India and Japan, it is revealed that if honey is taken with cinnamon powder the stomach is relieved of gas.

Heart Diseases:

Make a paste of honey and cinnamon powder, apply on bread or chapathi instead of jelly and jam and eat it regularly for breakfast. It reduces the cholesterol in the arteries and saves the patient from heart attack. In America and Canada, various nursing homes have treated patients successfully and have found due to the increasing age the arteries and veins which lose their flexibility and get clogged are revitalized.

Immune System:

Daily use of honey and cinnamon powder strengthens the immune system and protects the body from bacterial and viral infections. Scientists have found that honey has various vitamins and iron in large amounts. Constant use of honey strengthens the white blood corpuscles to fight bacteria and viral diseases.

Indigestion:

Cinnamon powder sprinkled on two tablespoons of honey taken before food, relieves acidity and digests the heaviest of meals.

Influenza:

A scientist in Spain has proved that honey contains a natural ingredient which kills the influenza germs and saves the patient from flu.

Pimples

Three tablespoons of honey and one teaspoon of cinnamon powder paste. Apply this paste on the pimples before sleeping and wash it next morning with warm water. If done daily for two weeks, it removes pimples from the root.

Skin Infections:

Eczema, ringworm and all types of skin infections are cured by applying honey and cinnamon powder in equal parts on the affected parts.

Weight Loss:

Daily in the morning, half hour before breakfast on an empty stomach and at night before sleeping, drink honey and cinnamon powder boiled in one cup of water. If taken regularly it reduces the weight of even the most obese person. Also drinking of this mixture regularly does not allow the fat to accumulate in the body even though the person may eat high calorie diet.

Fatigue:

Studies have shown that the sugar content of honey is more helpful than detrimental to the body strength. Senior citizens who take honey and cinnamon powder in equal parts are more alert and active. Dr. Milton who has done research says that half tablespoon honey taken in one glass of water and sprinkled with cinnamon powder, taken daily after brushing and in the afternoon after 3.00 p.m. increases the vitality of the body within a week.

Below is a historic set of photographs taken at the dedication of the new HCFA Headquarters in Baltimore in 1995.



L-R William Toby, Jr., Robert A. Derzon, Howard N. Newman, Leonard D. Schaeffer, Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D (All Administrators of HCFA)

COMEDY KORNER

OLD AGE IS GRAND

Reporters interviewing a 104 year-old woman asked, "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?"

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?"

"98," she replied. "Two years older than me."

"So you're 96," the undertaker commented.

She responded, "Hardly worth going home is it?"

I've sure gotten old. I've had 2 by-pass 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, I still have my Florida driver's license!

A 97-year-old man went into his doctor's office and said, "Doc, I want my sex drive lowered."

"Sir", replied the doctor, "You're 97. Don't you think your sex drive is all in your head?"

"You're damned right it is!" replied the old man.

"That's why I want it lowered!"

An elderly woman from Brooklyn decided to prepare her will and make her final requests. She

told her rabbi she had two final requests.

First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Bloomingdales.

"Bloomingdales!" the rabbi exclaimed. "Why Bloomingdales?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week.

STOLEN CAR

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried.

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard," he says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."

FAMILY

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood." She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

I CAN HEAR JUST FINE!

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?"

"No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday."

And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

WHAT A CHOICE

A little old lady was running up and down the halls in a nursing home. As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say, "Supersex."

She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Flipping her gown at him, she said, "Supersex."

He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, "I'll take the soup."

ROMANCE

An older couple was lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. She said, "You used to hold my hand when we were courting." Warily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep.

A few moments later she said, "Then you used to kiss me." Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said, "Then you used to bite my neck." Angrily, he threw back the bedclothes and got out of bed. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"To get my teeth!"

OLD FRIENDS

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

SENIOR DRIVING

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the

wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!"

"Hell," said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

MORE SENIOR DRIVING

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car, both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to an intersection. The stoplight was red, but they just went on through. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself, "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light."

After a few more minutes, they came to another intersection and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it. She was getting nervous.

At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said, "Crap, am I driving?"

OBITUARIES

ROBERT A. DERZON

New York Times, June 28, 2009

Robert A. Derzon, First Director of Medicare and Medicaid, Dies at 78

By Dennis Hevesi

Robert A. Derzon, the first director of the federal agency that manages Medicare and Medicaid, died June 17 in Orangeville, Ontario, where he was visiting a friend. He was 78 and lived in Mill Valley, Calif.

The cause was swine flu, Mr. Derzon's son Mike said.

Mr. Derzon, who had previously been deputy commissioner of New York City's Department of Hospitals, was chosen by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 to head what was then called the Health Care Financing Administration. Now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency was created in March 1977 to coordinate the two programs, which since they were created in 1965 had essentially been run separately. Medicare, for the most part, provides health insurance for people 65 and over, and Medicaid provides insurance for poor people.

In his two years as director, Mr. Derzon faced the difficult task of minimizing fraud and abuse in the programs and the apparently insurmountable task of slowing the soaring rate of hospital cost increases. His cost-cutting suggestions were sometimes controversial.

In a memo sent on June 4, 1977, to Joseph A. Califano, Jr., the secretary of Health, Education and Welfare at the time, Mr. Derzon suggested that the federal government adopt a "living will" law similar to one enacted by California. Living wills permit patients to authorize their doctors to terminate life-support systems when there is no chance for a cure or recovery. He also favored Medicaid financing of abortions for mothers on welfare.

Throughout his career, Mr. Derzon was a proponent of universal health care coverage. In 1969, when he was first deputy commissioner of New York City's Hospitals Department, he told a state legislative committee that the existing method of paying for health and hospital care was "a disaster."

"The vast majority of our population in suburban, urban and rural areas is not receiving convenient and economically produced quality health services," he said. Because of Medicaid cutbacks, he added, hospitals that had expanded health services to the poor in the city were "on the brink of fiscal disaster."

Robert Alan Derzon was born in Milwaukee on Dec. 30, 1930, one of two sons of Matthew and Mildred

Gordon Derzon. Mr. Derzon graduated from Dartmouth in 1953 and received a master's degree in 1955 from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. In 1956, he received a master's degree in public health administration from the University of Minnesota.

From 1960 to 1966, Mr. Derzon was associate director of the New York University Medical Center. He was first deputy commissioner of New York's hospital department from 1966 to 1969 and acting commissioner in 1970. Before being appointed to the federal post, he was director of the University of California's medical school hospital in San Francisco.

Mr. Derzon's wife of 54 years, the former Margo Harris, died in 2002. Besides his son Mike, he is survived by another son, James; a daughter, Andrea Merenluoto; his brother, Gordon; and nine grandchildren.

IS DAN BAKER STILL WORKING?

By Bill Grant

It was with a sense of loss and sorrow that we learned of the death of Dan on June 6.

Over his lengthy government service, Dan professionally and socially touched the lives and careers of so many people in both the Social Security and the Medicare community. It is not only his 60 plus years of service that should be celebrated but also the quality and breadth of his outstanding career.

Way back in 1939, Dan began work in the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Program, which later became the Social Security Administration. Not much is known about his early career, but by the late 1950's, Dan was the manager of the Buffalo, New York District Office. In 1960, Dan came to the Baltimore Central Office where he was a manager in the Division of Field Operations, which supervised the overall operations of 1300 Social Security Offices. In 1965 Dan assisted in setting up the new Medicare program which became operational July 1, 1966. Throughout the next 40 years as the Medicare program went from BHI and HCFA and finally CMS, Dan continued to provide leadership primarily in the Part A area of the program. A tremendous amount of institutional knowledge was lost when Dan finally retired.

It would be impossible to describe here, all of the accomplishments that Dan achieved during his long career. Perhaps most noteworthy is his direct involvement in the beginning of both the Social Security and the Medicare programs. As members of the HCFA/CMS Alumni Association, we can all take pride in the success of these vital social programs.

This tribute to the memory of Dan Baker was prompted by the many inquiries from his friends about his status and health. Whenever two or more retirees grouped together, the question was always asked: Is Dan Baker still working? It was always a sense of comfort to know that Dan was still there, watching over the programs he had helped to establish.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges

the passing of the following

Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its

sympathy to family members:

DAN BAKER (6/6/09)*

ROBERT A. DERZON**

NORBERT H. ROTTER (2/3/09)***

THOMAS S. WEISS (6/4/09)****

JOHN WINSTON (5/27/09)*****

* CMS Retiree who worked in Government from 1939 until 1 or 2 years ago

** First HCFA Administrator

*** HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

**** HCFA/CMS Alumni Member and husband of Alumni member Patricia J. Weiss

***** *Husband of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Toba Winston

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

July 2009