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# HCFA/CMS

## *ALUMNI NEWS*

SPRING 2013 (Vol. 19 No. 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter has finally released its tentacles and now Spring has actually sprung, so we thought we'd celebrate with another issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News. I'd like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership for 2013 (and in many cases beyond that as well). Dues remain at \$5.00 per year and, on the theory of "never say never," those who have not renewed for 2013 or later (you know who you are) can still get back into our good graces by doing so now. We are still chasing after a few who have said they intended to do so but haven't come in yet and the others are still welcome to join the stampede before we end up terminating their membership. There are 52 members who have so far not renewed their membership and, regrettably, we will soon reluctantly be forced to remove them from the roles.

I am also pleased that the association continues to attract new members. On page 2 you will see a list of 14 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 684. By providing a Member Directory, a quarterly newsletter, and e-mail messages about happenings at CMS, we promote a continuing connection between CMS (formerly HCFA) and its retirees, both at the central office and regional office levels. We try to provide information of interest to all retirees.

In this issue you will also find items about the COLA Count (looks like we might actually get one again in 2014, so far 1.05%), landline and cell phone numbers in the Member Directory, the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news, including a message from Acting Administrator Marilyn B. Tavenner about the new CMS Strategy. The ever-popular Komedey Korner appears as usual. There are lots of items that hopefully will be of interest to you.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful Spring 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**

Summer Issue – June 30, 2013

Fall Issue – September 30, 2013

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<http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Career-Information/CMSAlumni/index.html>

### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

John E Callender  
Betty Davis  
Harriet Deutsch  
Janice L Earle  
Patricia Gill  
Al Kemezys  
Rosa L King  
Charles Linkowich  
Angel L Miller  
Janet Reichert  
Nola P Shanks  
Mary A Stella  
Frank Szefflinski  
James White

We now have 684 active members.

### **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](mailto:wengelhardt@comcast.net) for faster response.

### **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.

### **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://saaanews.blogspot.com/> to check it out. If you are a former SSA worker you just might be interested enough to join the SSAA.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION RETIRED PERSONS**

There is also a web site created by and for Social Security Administration Retired Persons. It is a website for SSA retirees and employees who worked for SSA, but retired from other agencies (like CMS). Current employees are also invited to visit often and to join the mail list. The [ssarp.org](http://ssarp.org) administrator is Stanley LeBlanc, Dallas

Region, who retired June 3, 2003. The site was begun by retirees with the support of SSA employees, but it is not an official SSA site. There is an email communication list for those who subscribe. The [ssarp.org](http://ssarp.org) administrator is Stanley LeBlanc, Dallas Region, who retired June 3, 2003. A username and password is needed to access some of the sections and you can obtain it by sending an e-mail request to [retired@ssarp.org](mailto:retired@ssarp.org). Check it out at:

<http://www.ssarp.org>

### **SSAEAA**

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

### **COLA COUNT**

Through six 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 +1.05 percentage points. The new CPI-W figure for March 2013 was 229.323, 1.05 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third-quarter of 2012, which was 226.936. The 2012 third-quarter average is the reference figure for determining the 2014 COLA. October, November and December saw modest drops in the COLA count but January, February and March each saw a monthly increase, with an increase of 0.3% for January, 1% for February, and 0.3% for March, ending up with a net gain of 1.05% for the counting period. There are six months left in the counting period.

### **LANDLINE & CELL PHONE NUMBERS**

Practically since its inception the HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Directory has contained a column for a telephone number (PHONE) and a column for a fax or other number (FAX/OTHER). The use of fax numbers has become virtually nonexistent due to the advent of e-mail and the ability to attach documents for transmission. The use of cell phones has grown tremendously in the last few years. We have decided to change the heading of the FAX/OTHER column to CELL. From now on landline telephone numbers will be shown in the PHONE column and cell phone numbers will be shown in the CELL column. Many people these days have made their cell phone number the primary, and in some cases their only, number. The Membership Enrollment and Renewal Forms are being revised to request Phone Numbers and Cell Numbers.

Anyone wishing to provide both numbers, or clarify that the number we already have in the PHONE column is really a Cell phone number, now instead of waiting until their next membership renewal, can do so via an e-mail to Bill Engelhardt (wlengelhardt@comcast.net) or a phone call to the office.

### **SPRING/SUMMER COOK-OUT**

As indicated on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter, Lillian Lehnert is graciously hosting a Spring/Summer Cook-out at her home in Fulton MD on Thursday, June 13, 2013. Some 53 Alumni members and friends (a record setting number) attended this event last year and everyone had a wonderful time. Sign up and come for an “afternoon delight” from noon to 4PM.

### **BILL TOBY APPOINTED TO NY STATE MEDICAID REDESIGN GROUP**

Harvard Kennedy School Magazine  
Winter 2013

Bill Toby MC/MPA was appointed to New York Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Work Group and is a member of a select team of five who recently completed a groundbreaking four-month initiative of evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the hospital system in Brooklyn, New York. The report recommended a strategy designed to strengthen primary care, improve coordination and chronic care management, and reduce wasteful health care utilization and provider inefficiency.

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In the FALL 2012 issue of the HCFA/CMS ALUMNI NEWS we reported that Bill Toby, former Acting Administrator of HCFA in the early 1990s and long time Regional Administrator in New York, had produced a website to capture his career highlights so that his grandkids might be inspired to go into public service. That web site can be accessed at:

## **HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES DEBATED**

FEDweek Newsletter

The Obama administration's budgetary proposals to overhaul the FEHB program have received a cautious airing on Capitol Hill, with the main concerns focusing on the effects of allowing certain new types of plans into the program. Under the proposal, regional preferred provider option plans could be created, as part of what OPM termed a needed modernization of the program. Advocates of that idea said it would bring a new choice and more competition into the program, but opponents said it could allow such plans to pick off the most desirable enrollees in an area—meaning those who would put in the fewest claims—and offer them lower premiums, while other plans would have higher-risk enrollee pools, forcing their premiums up. Another part of the plan, to allow a self-plus-one option similarly was seen as benefitting couples without children eligible for coverage or single parents with one eligible child, but as potentially forcing up premiums in self-and-family coverage options. If the proposed changes were made, they would not be effective until the 2015 plan year at the earliest.

## **2013 ROBERT M BALL AWARD**

The National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) has announced that **Alice Mitchell Rivlin**, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution and a Visiting Professor at Georgetown University, has been selected as the 2013 recipient of the Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance. Alice Rivlin will be honored at the Capital Hilton, Presidential Ballroom, 1001 16th St NW, Washington DC at 5:30PM on June 25, 2013.

Robert M Ball founded the NASI and the award is issued in his honor for outstanding achievements in social insurance. In selecting Alice Rivlin as this year's honoree, the 2013 Ball Award Selection Committee, chaired by Bill Arnone, unanimously recognized Rivlin as one of the most distinguished and influential voices in policy dialogues on economic and fiscal issues that will shape the trajectory of social insurance. According to Chair Arnone: "After considering a number of individuals who have made and continue to make exceptional contributions to social insurance policy, research, and public understanding, it was clear to the Selection Committee that Alice Rivlin's achievements – from serving as founding director of the Congressional Budget Office, to directing the Office of Management and Budget during the Clinton Administration, to serving on President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform – all while maintaining that social insurance plays a critical and indispensable role in the lives of all Americans and in our economy – are truly outstanding and clearly warrant recognition."

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CMS STRATEGY

Acting Administrator Marilyn B Tavenner

I am pleased to introduce our CMS Strategy.

Our future as a leader in health care requires us to be a stronger, more accessible, nimble and informed organization as we take on additional challenges including those in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Accountability, teamwork, public service, innovation, excellence, integrity, respect and most importantly putting people first are the core values that I believe are necessary to guide us in fulfilling our mission.

I commend both our Management and Staff who are committed to moving this strategy forward. No single Center or Office alone can take us through this transformation. Collaboration, participation and transparency are very real elements in realizing our collective **vision -- a high quality health care system that ensures better care, access to coverage and improved health.**

Our Strategy includes meaningful goals and achievable objectives that will guide us to strategically invest our resources in a manner that will have the greatest impact on the health care delivery system:

1. Better Care and Lower Costs;
2. Prevention and Population Health;
3. Expanded Health Care Coverage; and
4. Enterprise Excellence.

The path forward will be challenging, but together we will embrace the future. This carefully developed *Strategy* is only the first step in realizing our goals and objectives. We will govern the plan by measuring our performance, managing our resources, mitigating risks and assuring that the CMS Community has a common understanding of the workings and priorities of our programs. Over the next several months we will be working on the execution of this strategy by further defining performance measures and specific initiatives that will be necessary to achieve our strategic objectives.

Our success depends on the involvement and support of every CMS employee. Our strength is truly in each other. Each of us will be called to contribute -- either to a specific strategic initiative, or to maintain our progress in ongoing program operations that are critical to fulfilling our agency's mission. We will work together to build on the great things we do now and find new ways to make measureable progress towards our goals. We will hold ourselves accountable for our Strategy's success and use performance outcomes, to continuously make improvements.

Please take the time to review the "CMS Strategy" located on the CMS Intranet and think about

how you can contribute to its success. I am very interested in having you share your thoughts by emailing [StrategyManagement@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:StrategyManagement@cms.hhs.gov). Over the coming weeks we will provide further opportunities to discuss this strategy in more depth. I am challenging everyone to put forward your best efforts individually and collectively. Most importantly, please commit to working together to improve the operations of CMS and thereby improve the quality of services for the American People.

Sincerely,

Marilyn B. Tavenner  
Acting Administrator

**SORRY – WE DON'T PROVIDE THAT SERVICE**

By Mike (Grandpa Mikee) Blank

Many moons ago, I was working as a claims authorizer in the Social Security Administration's New York Payment Center located in Manhattan. Ten payment centers scattered throughout the country made final decisions on Social Security claims filed in district offices. This was long before computers and direct deposit of Social Security checks.

Through what many considered to be an Act of God, the northeast coast was hit by a two-week electrical blackout. This led me to temporarily work in a district office close to my rent controlled apartment in Brooklyn, New York because, with the New York City subway system shut down, it took an 8 hour round trip to drive between boroughs.

I was assigned the review of claims ready to be sent to the Payment Center for final decisions. Late one afternoon I had a question about a claim. As I got up to talk to a supervisor about the claim, a little old man jumped up from the bullpen (claimants waiting area), ran towards me shouting at the top of his lungs. He began beating on my chest, "I've been waiting for hours, why am I being ignored?" Everything in the office stopped. I became the center of attention. Besides trying to defend myself, I tried to calm the man down. "Mister, Mister, I'm just a visitor here myself. Calm down, what's your name?" I then took him over to the supervisor that handled his alphabetical listing.

I, of course, watched as he excitedly and agitatedly spoke to the supervisor. When he finally left, I went over to find out what his problem had been. It seemed he and his wife received a combined check. His wife got to the mailbox first. She immediately took it to the bank, cashed it, and kept all of the money for herself. The man claimed his wife had been stealing his Social Security payments for years.

The supervisor told him to sign a form, which would go to the payment center, which would then send him an individual check for all of his future Social Security payments. After signing the form the man said, "So what about all the money my wife has been stealing from me for years?"



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What do you want us to do, Mr. Smith, put your wife in jail?"

YES, YES!!! Would you?!!! Would You?!!!

### **KOMEDY KORNER**

#### **POSSIBLE DICTIONARY ADDITIONS!**

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: A grape with a bad sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

And MY Personal Favorite!!

WRINKLES: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

## DRIVING

Do you ever notice that when you're driving, anyone going slower than you is an idiot and everyone driving faster than you is a maniac?

## A CONVERSATION IN HEAVEN

SYLVIA: Hi! Wanda.

WANDA: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

SYLVIA: I froze to death.

WANDA: How horrible!

SYLVIA: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

WANDA: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

SYLVIA: So, what happened?

WANDA: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

SYLVIA: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer, we'd both still be alive.

## CREDIT CARD SWIPE

Submitted by Ed Steinhouse

There was a bit of confusion at the store this morning. When I was ready to pay for my groceries, the cashier said, "Strip down facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to my congressman about Homeland Security running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to

my credit card.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to us seniors a little clearer!

### **FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES!**

#### 1. HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- Kristen, age 10

#### 2. WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. -- Camille, age 10

#### 3. HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. -- Derrick, age 8

#### 4. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

#### 5. WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

#### 6. WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. -- Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

7. IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

8. HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? -- Kelvin, age 8

9. HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. -- Ricky, age 10

**FALLING APART!**

There's quite an art to falling apart ....  
as these years go by.  
And life Doesn't begin at 40 ....  
That's a Big Fat Lie!

My hair's gettin' thinner ....  
my Body is Not.  
The few Teeth I have ....  
are beginning to Rot!

I smell of Vick's-Vapo-Rub ....  
Not Chanel #5.  
My new Pacemaker's all ....  
that keepin' me alive!

When asked of my past ....  
Every Detail I'll know.  
But what was I doin' ....  
just 10 minutes ago?

Well, you get the Idea ....  
what More can I say?  
I'm off to read the Obits ....  
like I do every Day.

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If my name is not there ....  
I'll once again Start –  
Perfecting the Art ....  
Of Falling Apart!

But til' That Last Curtain ....  
Decides to Fall,  
I'm gonna' have ....  
Myself a Ball!

**OBITUARIES**



**SALVATORE "SAL" DISTEFANO**

By Dave Distefano

Dear Friends and Family.

It is with great regret and a heavy heart that I announce my father Sal DiStefano passed away peacefully at 2:30PM today Thursday, February 7, 2013. He was the greatest dad ever and we thank God that he was in our lives as long as he was. Dad passed away with his loving wife Lucia, myself and my wife Kimberly, Father Malia, Tommy, Mindy, Mary Jo and Tom Bushman beside him. He was the greatest son, father, grandfather and husband and was an integral part of his family. His special charm and unique sense of humor will be missed tremendously.

We want to send Dad off the best that we can, so we ask you all to please join us for his Celebratory Mass and Celebration of Life immediately following. Listed below is the arrangement information.

Celebratory Funeral Service 2:00PM Saturday, February 16th.  
Location: Cathedral of Mary Our Queen  
Address: 5200 N Charles St, Baltimore MD 21210

Immediately following the Celebratory Mass we will walk from the Cathedral to the Parish venter located behind the Cathedral for Dad's Celebration of Life. Food and beverages will be served.

For further information please contact me (David DiStefano) at 239-207-4611 or e-mail me at david@daviddistefano.com

We cannot thank all of you enough for the heartfelt and kind comments, the outpouring of love,

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compassion and help and most of all the prayers and support.

Thank you so much!

The DiStefano Family

**TERRENCE JOHN "TERRY" REYNOLDS**

Terrence John Reynolds, 67 of Sykesville, died Saturday, February 23, 2013 at his home. Born September 9, 1945 in Pittsburgh, PA, he was the son of the late William and Marie Reich Reynolds. He was the former spouse of Regina Reynolds.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He had been the Director of Human Resources with the Health Care Financing Administration, which later became the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He taught Philosophy at the Renaissance Institute at the College of Notre Dame.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law Jennifer Reynolds and Gregory Smith of Pylesville, and brothers William Reynolds of Inslip Terrace, NY, and Kevin and Michael Reynolds, both of Butler, PA. He was predeceased by his brothers Robert and Mark Reynolds.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 1, 2013 at 1:00 PM at Haight Funeral Home & Chapel, 6416 Sykesville Road, Sykesville. Interment was in Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 10:45 am.

Online condolences may be offered at [www.haightfuneralhome.com](http://www.haightfuneralhome.com).

**JOHN COLTRIN BERRY**



John Coltrin Berry died Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at the age of 73. John was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 23, 1937, to the late Fred Berry and Dorothy Hubbard Berry. He graduated from York High School in Elmhurst, Illinois, attended Michigan State followed by a three-year enlistment in the United States Army where he met and married the former Janette Garrett on June 3, 1961, while stationed at the Red River Army Depot in New Boston, Texas. John later graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and was employed in various positions with the Department of Defense in Savanna, Illinois. John's service in the government brought him to Dallas, Texas where he served in various positions within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and then to Baltimore, Maryland where he served as the Director of Bureau for Program Operations for the Health Care Finance Administration. In 1987, he retired from the government and moved to Roanoke, Virginia joining Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield, as Senior Vice President for Individual and Government business. In 2001, John retired from Trigon and he and Janette moved to Reynolds Plantation where he enjoyed playing golf, poker, gin, bridge and reading. Throughout his life, John was a dedicated volunteer and since moving to Greene County was the treasurer of Habitat for Humanity. John was an active member of the Lake Oconee Community Church of Greensboro. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and dear friend.

John is survived by his wife, Janette Garrett Berry, of Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Georgia; his daughter, Cheryl Songster and her husband, Jack of Johnson City, Tennessee; his sons, John Patrick Berry and his wife, Patricia Bauer, of San Diego, California, and Andrew Henry Berry and his wife, Michelle, of Atlanta, Georgia; a special cousin, David Thompson of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; his grandchildren, Jared Songster, James Songster, Calvin Songster, Gabriella Berry, Rebecca Berry, Isabella Berry, Garrett Berry, Cristina Berry and Jake Berry; and many other relatives, friends, and his special pets, Mattie Dog and Kitty.



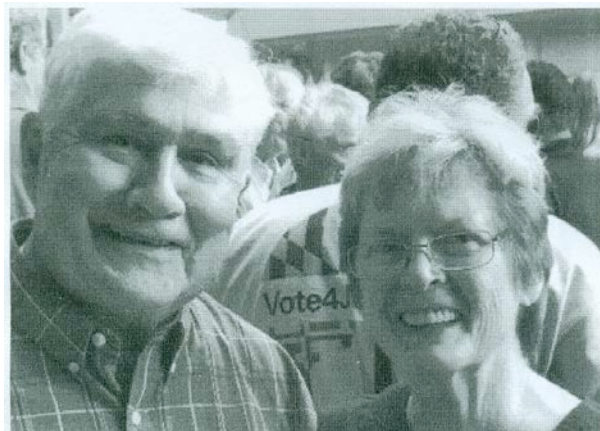
Funeral Services will be held Friday, April 29, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Lake Oconee Community Church Pavilion, Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, GA 30642 with the Rev. Becky Matheny officiating. The family will receive friends at a reception at their home following the service. Graveside Services will be held Saturday, April 30, 2011, at 5 p.m. at Old Salem Cemetery in New Boston, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Greene County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 321, Greensboro, GA 30642 or The Missions and Benevolence Committee at Lake Oconee Community Church, P.O. Box 751, Greensboro, GA 30642. McCommons Funeral Home, 109 W. Broad St., Greensboro, GA, (706) 453-2626, is in charge of arrangements. Visit us at [www.mccommonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mccommonsfuneralhome.com) to sign the online guest register.

Published in Roanoke Times on April 29, 2011

### **REMEMBRANCE OF FRANK CHASE**

By Ted Jensen

President, Maryland Federation of NARFE



Frank & Carole Chase

We lost a great friend and one of our most active NARFE volunteers on December 11, 2012. Frank Chase was a man who cared about people and his country and never stopped working for the causes and organizations he believed in. He was still planning to do more when illness caught up with him, as he noted in his last message in the December, 2012 NARFE Howard County Chapter #1734 Newsletter.

The youngest of 9 children, Francis Joseph Chase made his mark on the world through a lifetime of hard work and service to others. After graduating from Dartmouth in 1955, Frank joined the U.S. Army, learned Korean at the Army Language School in Monterey, and served two years in Korea. After the Army, he went to work for the Social Security Administration in Michigan where he met and married Carole. The story is that Carol was acting in a play, so Frank joined the cast to be with her. They were married for 50 years. Later Frank moved to the Health Care Financing Administration and served there until he "retired" in 1993.

In Frank's case, the word "retirement" simple meant devoting his boundless energies to other ventures as a volunteer. The list of his activities and accomplishments is long and impressive, and truthfully I am not sure we even know about all of them.

We in NARFE knew and appreciated Frank as a 20-year active member of his chapter, where he served multiple terms as Treasurer and Vice President for Federal Legislation, a post he held until his passing. I remember his passion for that role and his willingness to do whatever it took to get things done. At the Federal level, Frank revitalized the State Legislative Committee, which he chaired for many years. He worked tirelessly on issues important to seniors, often treading the halls of the State Capital to lobby one-on-one. He later became Federation Vice President and Legislative Director. He also represented Federation on several organizations including the United Seniors of Maryland and the Maryland Gerontological Association. Frank received the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award and was inducted the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 2001.

Frank loved politics and was active at local, state, and federal levels. His interest however was not merely in the process but in the results for the causes he cared deeply about, the welfare of senior citizens, retirees, and people with disabilities. He loved democracy and justice and fought tirelessly for fair election practices so that the voices of all Marylanders could be heard. He volunteered regularly for political candidates and for Common Cause. Frank's death was mourned by the Columbia Democratic Club and the Howard County Democratic Central Committee.

Frank's service to the community through his many volunteer efforts has been praised and recorded in the Congressional Record (Vol. 159, No. 8, January 23, 2013) by US Senator Ben Cardin. The Senator counted Frank as a friend and trusted advisor on his Health Care Policy Advisory Committee for 20 years. The Senator wrote these words, which sum up what many of us would say about Frank, "Frank could have led a comfortable, quiet life after retirement, but he chose instead to keep going for many more miles, working for the causes he believed in deeply and the Nation he loved. Like all who were privileged to know him, I will miss my dear friend Frank. Join me in celebrating his life.

The Winter 2013 issue of the HCFA CMS Alumni News contained the obituary for Francis Joseph "Frank" Chase and he was listed on the **IN MEMORIAM** page of that issue. The article above appeared in the Winter issue of the NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees) Maryland Federation of Chapters Spring Newsletter

# **IN MEMORIAM**

**The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges**

**the passing of the following**

**Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its**

**sympathy to family members:**

**DR PATSY BRADFORD BEARKLEY (9/12)\***  
**JOHN COLTRIN BERRY (4/26/11)\*\***  
**SAL DISTEFANO (2/7/13)\***  
**JOHN R FREAS (2/6/13)\*\*\***  
**TERRENCE JOHN "TERRY" REYNOLDS (2/23/13)\***  
**ROSE SABATINO (3/31/13)\*\*\*\***

\* HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

\*\* HCFA Retiree

\*\*\* Husband of Alumni Member Kathleen Freas

\*\*\*\* Mother of HCFA Retiree Alberta Leone

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

**April 2013**