

Health Affairs (Healthcare Reform in Japan), found that pharmaceutical dispensing is more profitable for doctors since physicians dispense drugs directly and profit by buying from wholesalers at a discount and selling at the fee-schedule price. Japan has the highest per capita drug consumption in the world.

According to Asahi News Service, the cost of prescription drugs represents 30% of all medical expenses in Japan. And according to Financial Times, this is the highest proportion in the EOCOD and far higher than the 11% in the US and 16% in the UK.

Like physicians, hospitals in Japan also can make a profit on the sale of medicines to their patients. The Asahi News Service found that "medications of dubious value are used carelessly because information about their effects is not made public . . . and that the more prescriptions hospitals issue, the greater their profits will be, because of the huge gap between the government-designated base prices and the market price."

The Nikkei Weekly reported that in April of 1997, the Japanese government proposed revision of the ". . . drug-payment system, which has been criticized for enabling doctors to line their pockets and causing over-prescription."

Based on these facts, it is highly likely that Medicare's Average Wholesale Price (AWP) system of paying doctors for certain medicines causes distortions in prescribing practices.

European countries, in contrast, have, in the last ten years, instituted practices to curb overutilization by eliminating some financial incentives. Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands have introduced "reference pricing" as a financial disincentive for patients to accept and doctors to prescribe non-reference drugs. These countries are probably not the best examples of countries with overutilization. Japan is the best in this regard (we are still trying to find another clear cut case, like Japan).

It's interesting to note that, on the flip side, reimbursements for surgery are low in Japan and, as a consequence, one third as much surgery is done in Japan as the U.S.

COMMEMORATING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AIR STATION CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thirtieth anniversary of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. For all of us who go to the sea, for pleasure or by profession, the Air Station has been an enormously reassuring presence all these years.

Since its commissioning in 1970, Air Station Cape Cod has performed more than 10,000 search-and-rescue missions, saved 3,500 lives and saved more than \$450 million in property—all this while safeguarding our natural resources and seizing shipments of illegal drugs bound for our shores. It's all in a long day's work—and often a long night's work as well—for the personnel of the U.S. Coast Guard.

While the breathtaking heroics of the men and women of the Air Station have recently been made famous by recent feature films, perhaps the most fitting tribute comes from the

grateful communities served by the men and women of the Air Station. I am pleased to enter in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following words of appreciation from a recent edition of the Cape Cod Times newspaper.

[From the Cape Cod Times, Aug. 30, 2000]

AIR STATION CAPE COD TURNS 30

(By Kevin Dennehy)

AIR STATION CAPE COD—Ed Greiner won't soon forget the week last summer he moved his family to Cape Cod to assume his duty as executive officer at the local Coast Guard installation.

That same weekend, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s airplane dove into the Atlantic Ocean. And within hours, the tragedy sparked one of the largest Coast Guard searches ever undertaken off Cape shores, and a media swarm that enveloped the Upper Cape air station for several days.

But then, it was not that much different than what the Coast Guard does on a regular basis, Greiner says.

"Sure, it was hectic," he said yesterday. "But it was a large version of what we're trained to do, and do everyday."

They've been doing what they do at Air Station Cape Cod since August 1970. Yesterday, the Coast Guard marked its 30th anniversary with a quiet ceremony at one of the station's hangars.

It's been a busy three decades. Since 1970, pilots and crews have responded to more than 9,500 calls—nearly one search-and-rescue mission per day during that time. As of yesterday, they'd saved 3,312 lives and prevented the loss of \$455 million worth of property.

"For recreational boaters and those who use the water to make a living, it adds a measure of safety," Greiner said. "If folks get into trouble, we're always standing ready to assist."

One of the busiest of America's 24 air stations, Air Station Cape Cod started operating when Air Station Salem and Air Detachment Quonset Point, R.I., were consolidated in 1970.

About 400 employees work at the station, including 250 active-duty members.

And with more than 2,000 people—including those from other military branches—living in the nearly 700 units of Coast Guard housing, it's the largest continuous presence on the base.

These days, the Coast Guard uses four Jayhawks and four HU-25 Falcon jets to conduct nearly 300 rescue missions each year.

The Coast Guard also assists in law enforcement and fishing zone enforcement; is involved in drug interdiction; and repairs navigational aids throughout the northern Atlantic.

"It's a great job," said Lt. Bill Bellatty, who flies a HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter at the station. "It's always great when you save lives. It's when it's nasty out that it's terrible. That's when we earn our money."

FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY OF LINDA FAYE SOFFER

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize one of my constituents, Linda Faye Soffer (nee Cook) of White Hall, Arkansas, who will

be celebrating her 50th birthday on October 15, 2000. Linda was born on October 15, 1950 in Memphis, Tennessee to William Allen Cook and Dorothy Annice Cook (nee McGill) of Earle, Arkansas. I want to join Stu Soffer, her husband, in wishing her a Happy Birthday with best wishes for the upcoming year.

HONORING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR ITS 200TH YEAR OF SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christ Lutheran Church, Filey's Parish, for its 200th year of service to the Gospel in their community.

Christ Lutheran Church is a small country church in a growing area of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1800 by the New German community, and in 1811 a building was erected for worship and it also served as a school. In 1938 Jacob Filey donated the land on which the church is presently located. Today, the congregation is made up of 90 people that attend weekly services. The church houses a daycare, with a nursery school located nearby, named Filey's Nursery School.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the congregation of the Christ Lutheran Church for their 200th year of outstanding service to the community. I wish them continued strength and unity as their parish continues to grow and thrive.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL ZONE, MARY ZONE, AND THE ZONE FAMILY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Neighborhood Social Club and Archives' posthumous recognition of former City of Cleveland Councilman Michael Zone and his surviving wife, former City Councilwoman Mary Zone for their contributions to the Italian American neighborhood that is part of the Mount Carmel West neighborhood. The organization will present the Giuseppe T. Focca Award to the Zone family on October 1.

Michael Zone, whose family immigrated from the region of Campania near the City of Caserta, was among the early Italian families to settle in this westside neighborhood. Michael was instrumental in the early development of the current Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and School and the development of Villa Mercedes, a senior citizen assisted high-rise.

As a councilman, Michael Zone worked hard for the Italian American residents he represented. He helped many gain meaningful employment and assisted them with immigration and government services. He put his constituents first, and demonstrated that public service is a higher calling.