

Geezer

I was inspired by comments of Dr. Ben Carson from his address to HUD employees upon assuming his appointment as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2017, which I reported in my March 8, 2017 post “A Spoonful of Sugar”, to use the term “old geezer”.

Call it “death panels” or say it like Dr. Ben Carson did recently to HUD employees when he honestly expressed his belief that his skills as a brain surgeon were more appropriately used to “operate 12, 18 or 20 hours on a young child and, if successful, you might be rewarded with 50, 60 or 80 years of life, whereas with an old geezer they die in five years or something else, I like to get a return on my investment.”

In that post I essentially considered all of us on Medicare, i.e. age 65ish and over, as old geezers. However, after considering the information provided by Robert Samuelson in his column “Making Medicaid Great”, which I used in my March 22, 2017 post “Not An Old Geezer Yet”, I’ve decided that those of us geezers who are under age 85 are just “geezers”, which an online dictionary defines as “an old man”, and those age 85 and over are “old geezers”, hence an old, old man, the distinction being that while all of us geezers are dependent on young working people to sustain our standards of living, thus behooving us to be sure they too are sustained, old geezers are particularly expensive to sustain, due to rapidly rising medical costs, as an age cohort.

Also, to further illustrate the reality of Dr. Carson’s comments, go to this Social Security website:

<https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/population/longevity.html>

What it shows is a geezer, now around 75 years of age, has about 12 years left on average—probably enough for the good doctor to

operate. But an old geezer, around 87 years of age, is down to about 5 years left—too bad, so sad, don't ask Dr. Carson to invest the time.