SUMMARY BACKGROUND DATA

Previous studies have demonstrated that the best outcomes are achieved in centers performing large numbers of pancreaticoduodenectomies, which suggests that regionalization could lower the overall in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure.

METHODS

Maryland state hospital discharge data were used to select records of patients undergoing a pancreaticoduodenectomy between 1984 and 1995. Hospital is were classified into high-volume and low-volume provider groups. Trends in surgical volume and mortality rates were examined by provider groups and for the entire state. Regression analyses were used to examine whether hospital share of pancreaticoduodenectomies was a significant predictor of the in-hospital mortality rate, adjusting for study year and patient characteristics. The portion of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure attributable to the high-volume provider's increasing share was determined.

RESULTS

A total of 795 pancreaticoduodenectomies were performed in Maryland at 43 hospitals from 1984 to 1995 (Maryland residents only). During this period, one institution increased its yearly share of pancreaticoduodenectomies from 20.7% to 58.5%, and the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure decreased from 17.2% to 4.9%. After adjustment for patient characteristics and study year, hospital share remained a significant predictor of mortality. An estimated 61% of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure was attributable to the increase in share of discharges at the high-volume provider.

CONCLUSIONS

A trend toward regionalization of pancreaticoduodenectomy over a 12-year period in Maryland was associated with significant decrease in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure, demonstrating the effectiveness of regionalization for high-risk surgery.

HONORING GUAM'S ARTIST, ERIKA KRISTINE DAVID, DURING THE CHILDART USA EXHIBITION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 1998, the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) announced that young Erika Kristine David's artwork has been selected for the ChildArt USA Exhibition. This exhibition was on display from September 5–8 in the Atrium Hall of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Young Erika is one of the fifty talented child artists whose work has been selected for this exhibition.

The artwork was selected from an outreach program to elementary and middle schools of nearly every school district in the country. The participants are young students ranging from ages 8 to 12 years old, who submitted their artwork based on the theme: My World in the Year 2000. Fifty child artists, representing 30 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam, were invited by ICAF to attend the ChildArt USA Festival and Exhibition opening on the Labor Day weekend.

Erika Kristine David is the youngest daughter of Enrico and Tess David of Mangilao, Guam. She is a fourth grade student at the Price Elementary School on Guam. Her art teacher Vicky Loughran and her father Enrico traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the ChildArt USA Exhibition. Her favorite subject is art and music and when she grows up she wants to be an artist or a singer. Her other hobbies are spending time with her family and pets, reading, traveling, practicing art, listening to music and snorkeling. The theme of her artwork, My World in the Year 2000, depicts people of the world enjoying a healthy and good life. People feeling safe outdoors, exercising, barbecuing, picnicking and having fun in the sun and in the water.

It is with great pride that today I honor Erika Kristine David from Guam, whose artwork has not only exposed the talent and artistry of the people of Guam, but also whose art has been brought here in the Nation's Capital for all people to enjoy. Erika, along with other young artists collaborated with professional adult artists to create a unique 16 ft. x 24 ft. mural on the National Mall. The theme of the mural is America 2000.

Because of organizations such as ''The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF),'' a nonprofit group, dedicated to the promotion of children's art and visual global learning, that young artists like Erika Kristine David have been provided an outlet for their work. These young students' talent and artistry will be acknowledged by all who enjoy the arts and praised by those organizations whose mission is to promote arts for the people.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Erika Kristine David's artwork and to highlight the artistic talents of the young students of Guam.

REMEMBERING PETER ''JERRY'' MIKACICH

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in tribute to the late Gerald Peter ''Jerry'' Mikacich of Sacramento, California. As a beloved husband, father, and friend to many, Jerry Mikacich will be remembered as one of our community's must active and giving citizens.

Today, Jerry will be eulogized at a memorial Mass in his hometown. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to this incredibly caring man whose goodwill will indeed be his lasting legacy.

A native of Northern California, Jerry Mikacich was born in Sacramento on May 10, 1930. He was an active student, athlete and Eagle Scout before he graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1948. Then, he enrolled at Sacramento Junior College which is Sacramento City College today, and eventually San Jose State.

Since the 1940s, Jerry had a reputation as an avid skier, beginning in childhood and blossoming into a long-term career as a ski shop proprietor. Throughout college, Jerry was known to be a great fan of skiing and an exceptional athlete. In fact, Jerry first came to know his future wife Georgia on the ski slopes.

After college, Jerry soon established a reputation as an expert in the field of winter sporting equipment. Skiers in our area came to rely on Jerry's professional assistance and wisdom. He made this sport available to many who otherwise would never have experienced its thrills, including amputees for whom he adapted ski equipment.

The strength of Jerry's personal character was forever a part of his life. He and Georgia were married on June 19, 1961 and their union remained strong until his passing. As a caring entrepreneur and devoted family man, he served as an outstanding role model for many.

On a personal note, Jerry Mikacich was one of my most valued friends since the early days of my career in public service. He was always there for me and his assistance was tireless and very much appreciated. My thoughts and prayers are with Jerry's wife Georgia, his mother Lottie Munizich Mikacich, his four children, and all the rest of his family during this most difficult of times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in remembering a gracious and generous man, as well as a very dear friend, Jerry Mikacich.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. LOUIS CARDINAL MARK McGWIRE

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mark McGwire and his awesome feat in setting a new, single-season home run record.

Throughout this season, Americans have been treated to one of the most incredible sporting achievements of our lifetime. The single-season home run mark of 61 stood as perhaps the most awesome feat in baseball history. I feel privileged to have been able to witness Mark McGwire in action this year—every baseball fan in America knows that they have seen something special in 1998.

Roger Maris set that record 37 years ago, topping perhaps the most impressive achievement of Babe Ruth, the best all-around player ever to take the field in professional baseball. Watching McGwire's pursuit of 62 home runs, placing him among icons like Ruth and Maris, has been a pure joy to witness.

Mark McGwire is not only an outstanding athlete, he is also a man whose conduct epitomizes good sportsmanship. He has remained focused on his goal in the face of a media frenzy and a sea of exploding in flash bulbs. And he did it with amazing grace and real class.

The chase showed something special about Mark McGwire. But it also showed me something special about the people of St. Louis. The fact that seven very lucky fans gave up progressively larger amounts of money, returning their souvenir home runs balls to Number 25, showed that Cardinals fans truly are, as Baseball America called them, the Best Baseball Fans in America. These fans showed their true spirit when they stood and cheered not only for St. Louis' own Mark McGwire, but also for that great athlete, the Cub's, Sammy Sosa.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to say I am from St. Louis, and I could not be