

VETERANS BENEFITS & BEYOND



Transitioning from Service to Civilian? Understand the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service Member (UCX) Program.

As encouraging news from the United States Department of Labor's June jobs report, the Veteran unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, down from 4.2 percent last year, and the lowest rate since 2007. However, the transition to civilian duty can still be uncertain and difficult to navigate.

Through the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service Member (UCX) Program, service members

may qualify for unemployment compensation until you are able to find a new job. You are most likely eligible if:

- *You were on active duty with a branch of the U.S. military*
- *You have been separated under honorable conditions*
- *There is no payroll deduction from your wages for unemployment insurance protection*

If you are currently a service member with a discharge date, it is highly recommended to apply for unemployment benefits during the week you are discharged from the military. You can ask for help from the Local Veterans Employment Representative at your state employment office. To apply for unemployment compensation, you must bring your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), your Social Security Card and your civilian and military job history or resume.

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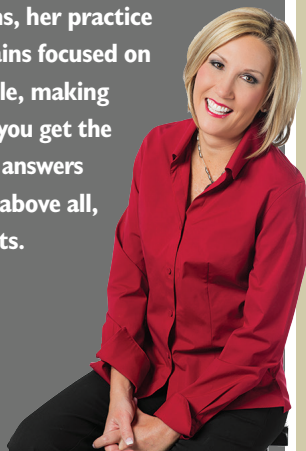
OFFICE INBOX
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WHAT'S COOKING!
Chicken Pita Skewer Spectacular!

Jan Dils



Jan Dils brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans' benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and, above all, results.



JAN'S Letter



As a country, we cannot do enough for our Veterans – the brave men and women who selflessly put aside their civilian lives to serve us. As a firm, my team cannot share enough information to benefit our vets and their families, too.

Within this newsletter, we address two generations of Veterans: those recently discharged and returning to civilian life and our senior veterans who may need some added assistance with living and care giving.

Our cover article spotlights the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service Member (UCX) Program. We hope to answer questions that you or a family member may have about the gap between discharge and full employment. It's our country's duty to help make the transition as smooth as possible and support our vets as they plan the next chapter of their lives.

It's also important to take care of our aging population of Veterans. The Veteran Aid and Attendance (A&A) Pension is there to ensure both Veterans and their spouses have access to 24/7 care if needed. This pension is separate from disability. It contributes to expenses associated with assisted living. It is an important and deserved benefit to ensure our Vets live comfortably and with dignity.

In addition to the articles, we have team updates, highlights and another special recipe. And, as always, feel free to contact us about the content of this newsletter or Veteran's benefits in general. If you have questions, we have answers!

Sincerely,
Jan Dils



STAY PLUGGED INTO THE PRACTICE
Want the scoop on what's new with our business and the team? You can find it right here, so stay plugged into the practice.

We are happy to announce that the Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law is growing with more new teammates to help our veterans. Please join us in welcoming **Kayla Wentz**, VA Records Requestor; **Mika Gregg**, VA Records Reviewer; **Chastity Ring**, VA Hearing Clerk; **Spring Henry**, VA Case Management Support Specialist; and **Muriah Powell**, VA Appeal Clerk. We invite you to meet the team!



SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE

Morgan Hellein

Morgan has been with the firm for a little over two years. She recently transitioned to a c-file reviewer. Her hobbies include dirt track racing, spending time with her family, traveling, and being outdoors. Her fiancé drives a dirt modified car and dirt late model car. They have a three-year-old son and are planning to get married at the end of summer. Her favorite part about working at the firm is that everyone shares the same vision and is dedicated to helping veterans.

LATEST AND GREATEST

As we integrate social media into more aspects of our lives, Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law seized the opportunity to engage community Veterans and answer your questions about VA Disability via Facebook Live! Using an iPad, a microphone, and a Wi-Fi signal, Lead VA Attorney Heather Vanhooose and Social Media Specialist Jon Corra go live about twice a month. Each session lasts about 45 minutes. During the video, Heather will usually answer between 8-10 questions – most of them from Veterans. Currently each broadcast has between 150-200 live viewers. We also post them to our page for people to view who were not able to catch it during the initial show. Be sure to like our page on Facebook so you don't miss our broadcast. Let us know if you have questions about accessing these live chats.



Caring for our Veterans Post-Retirement.

Our aging Veterans should never be forgotten or overlooked. They are heroes with great wisdom and life experience. As a part of an “improved pension” benefit, the VA offers aid for senior Veterans and spouses of veterans who require added assistance for daily living – bathing, medication management, nutritious, regular meals and more.

It also includes those who are blind or a patient placed in a skilled nursing facility because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted living care also qualifies.

The Veteran Aid and Attendance (A&A) Pension is a benefit and not dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Veterans can be eligible for up to \$1,794 per month. A surviving spouse is typically eligible for up to \$1,153 per month. A Veteran with a spouse can receive up to \$2,127 per month and a Veteran with an ailing spouse up to \$1,410 per month.

The A&A monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment

- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Like Social Security, the pension is paid directly to you by the Department of Treasury. You may apply for Aid and Attendance benefits by writing to the Pension Management Center (PMC) that serves your state. You may also visit your local regional benefit office to file your request. For more information, visit benefits.va.gov.

Our aging Veterans should never be forgotten or overlooked. They are heroes with great wisdom and life experience.



Source: www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp veteranaide.org

What’s for dinner? Try Case Management Support Specialist Bethany Maze’s little vacation to the Mediterranean – **Chicken Pita Skewer Spectacular!**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 3 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. dried oregano
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into cubes

- 2 large zucchinis, cut into half moons
- 1 cup chopped red onion (in 1" pieces)
- 4 pitas
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta
- 1/4 cup torn fresh dill

Directions: Heat grill to medium. Make marinade: In a large bowl, whisk together 3/4 cup olive oil, vinegar and oregano and season with salt and pepper. Whisk together and reserve half to use later. Add chicken to marinade and toss until combined. Skewer chicken with zucchini and red onion. Drizzle skewers with remaining 1/4 cup olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Grill on medium until charred and cooked through, 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a serving platter. Grill pita 30 seconds. Serve skewers in pita and top with feta, dill and reserved marinade.

WORD GAME

A mumbo jumbo is a list of words/hints for you to unscramble. You then take designated letters from each word/hint to come up with the final message that is associated with each hint you have unscrambled.

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IMPORTANT VETERANS BENEFITS NEWS FOR EVERYONE

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WWW.VETERANDISABILITYBLOG.COM

Continued from inside story

It is also helpful to know that there are no residency requirements under the UCX program. This means you can file for benefits in the state that you live in after discharge, even if you didn't live there before you went into service or at any other time.

How Much Can I Expect?

Your check will be a percentage of your prior earnings in the military. In most states, you will

receive 50 percent of your prior pay, but the total amount you can receive is limited by state law. If your compensation is high, you may receive less than 50 percent of your active duty pay.

Receiving separation pay may also influence your receipt of unemployment compensation. Retirees may be eligible, but will receive a lesser amount since the weekly amount of retirement pay is usually "offset" against the amount of unemployment compensation.

checks you receive for unemployment. In most states, taxes won't be withheld from your check unless you request it. This is important to understand during tax preparation so you are not "surprised" and in a position to owe the IRS – especially after you get a job and your new earnings bring you to a taxable level.

Helping Our Heroes

The Department of Labor is empowering transitioning service members to make informed decisions as they move into successful civilian careers. Take advantage of resources from the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, including employment and transition assistance. Visit veterans.gov.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we are Veterans' benefits lawyers and we are proud to help our veterans and their families obtain the Veterans benefits offered by a grateful nation. We also are active in our communities helping to raise awareness and funds to serve our American heroes.



Disability

Disability compensation payments from the VA do not reduce your unemployment check. You can receive your full unemployment compensation along with your full disability payment from the VA.

Taxation

Unlike your Veterans' disability compensation, you will be taxed on the