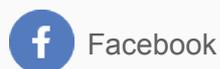




**PERSONAL INJURY  
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## VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS IN THE NEWS



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There's no doubt about it: my family loves sports. One of the highlights of our summer was seeing a Chicago Cubs game at Wrigley Field, and my son Hayden even wants to major in Sports Broadcast Journalism at Marshall University. I know that a lot of our clients are sports fans, too, and that's why I was so excited to hear about VA's partnership this year with NASCAR. VA has participated in 7 NASCAR events so far this season, and they are conducting outreach at two more during the remaining 2016 race season: at Dover International Speedway (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) and Phoenix International Raceway (Nov. 11-13). Health and benefits experts from VA will be on site to bring information about VA benefits and services directly into the community, so be sure to read the article we have included here for more information.

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Our second article has more good news: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. Great news for our Veterans and for those of us who serve them and want to see their best interests served, even under trying circumstances.

If you have questions about Veterans benefits, give us a call or contact us through our website at [www.jandils.com](http://www.jandils.com). We are always happy to hear from you!

Sincerely,



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**VA AWARDS \$300 MILLION MORE  
IN GRANTS TO HELP END  
VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**



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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. The SSVF grant program provides access to crucial services to prevent homelessness for Veterans and their families.

SSVF funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless, has been awarded to 275 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These grants, key elements of VA's implementation of the Housing First Strategy, enable vulnerable Veterans to secure or remain in permanent housing. A list of SSVF grantees is located at [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp).

**“Since 2010, the Housing First Strategy has helped cut Veteran Homelessness nearly in half,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “Housing First is why 360,000 Veterans and family members have been housed, rehoused or prevented from falling into homelessness over the last five years. SSVF helps homeless Veterans quickly find stable housing and access the supportive services they – and their families – need.”**

Grantees will continue to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include health care, income support services, financial planning, child care, legal services, transportation, housing counseling, among other services.

Grantees are expected to leverage supportive services grant funds to enhance the housing stability of very low-income Veteran families who are occupying permanent housing. In doing so, grantees are required to establish relationships with local community resources.

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, SSVF served more than 157,000 participants and is on track to exceed that number in FY 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down 47 percent since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Also since 2010, more than 360,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly re-housed, or prevented from falling into homelessness by VA's homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Today's grant recipients successfully competed for grants under a January 15, 2016, Notice of Fund Availability.

Applications were due February 5, 2016. The funding will support SSVF services in FY 2017, which starts October 1, 2016, and ends September 30, 2017.

For more information about the SSVF program, visit [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp).

Source:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2812>

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## VA PARTNERS WITH RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) partnered with Richmond International Raceway (RIR) for the second year in a row to promote greater access and awareness to VA benefits and services at NASCAR weekend in Richmond on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

“From our ongoing experience, innovative partnerships like this with NASCAR and RIR create important new access points to vital VA benefits and services,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “We value this opportunity to reach Veterans and their families who may not realize they are eligible for VA benefits and services or those who may not know where to go to access this support.”

VA honored past and present military members during Pole Qualifying for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. VA’s Mobile Vet Center was on site with a team of health and benefits experts to answer Veterans’ questions, share information and help Veterans and family members access VA benefits and services.

“Richmond International Raceway is honored to be partnering with VA again this year,” said Richmond International Raceway President Dennis Bickmeier.

“NASCAR, being the patriotic sport that it is, supporting those who are currently serving and the Veterans that have served is important to RIR. We are proud to be a part of such an impactful partnership with the VA to set the field for the Federated Auto Parts 400.”

As part of the collaboration, RIR also offered a special ticket price for Veterans and their families for the Virginia529 College Savings Plan 250 NASCAR Xfinity Series race, as well as their traditional military appreciation program discount for the Federated Auto Parts 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race.

Prior to the NASCAR weekend, VA and RIR also held a “Driving VA Benefits and Services Home” event at the Richmond VA Medical Center featuring NASCAR drivers, RIR representatives, VA benefits and services outreach staff and a NASCAR Sprint Cup racecar.

These outreach activities are part of the larger MyVA initiative, which is dedicated to improving the Veteran experience and increasing customer service access points in communities where Veterans reside. As the number one spectator sport in the country, NASCAR has more than 75 million race fans, one third of whom are active duty Servicemembers or Veterans.

In addition to the RIR activities, VA has participated in six other NASCAR events and will conduct outreach at two more during the remaining 2016 race season. VA’s health and benefits experts will be on site to bring information about VA benefits and services directly into the community. Additional events are scheduled at Dover International Speedway (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) and Phoenix International Raceway (Nov. 11-13).

For more information, visit

[www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/nascar-outreach.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/nascar-outreach.asp).

Source:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2819>

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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