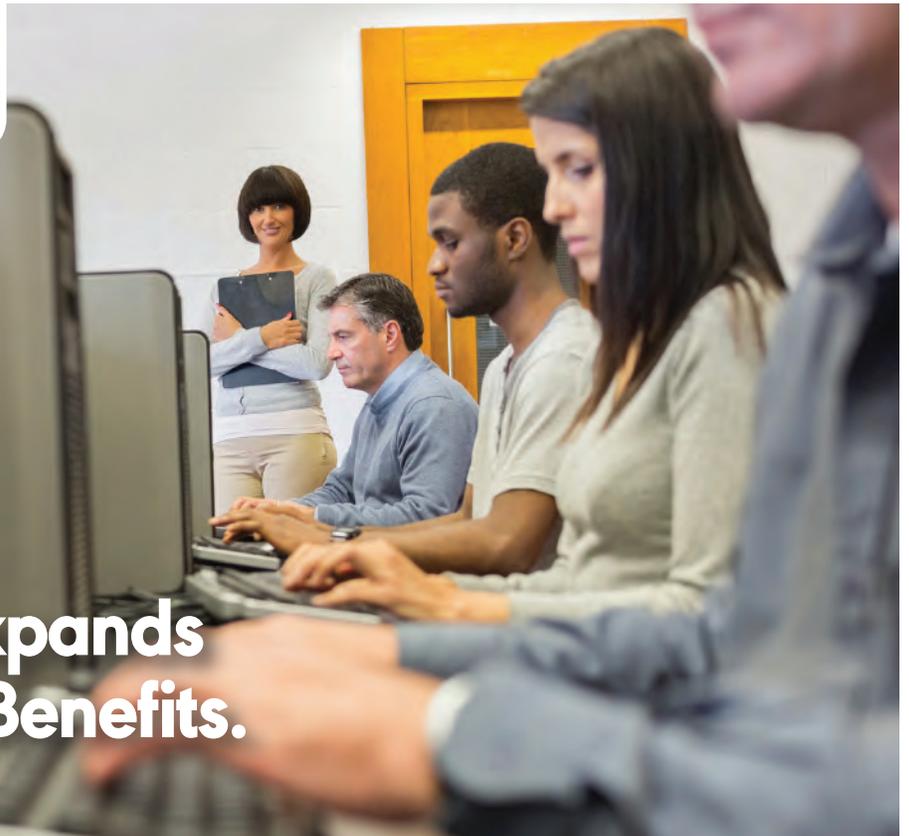


# VETERANS BENEFITS & BEYOND

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

**JAN DILS**   
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, L C



## Forever GI Bill Expands VA Educational Benefits.

### *Inside*

**VA and IBM Watson  
Health Extend Partnership  
to Support Veterans  
With Cancer.**

*Office Inbox*  
**Office News and Events**

*What's Cooking!*  
**Chicken Adobo**



**T**he U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented 15 more provisions of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also referred to as the Forever GI Bill.

These provisions, in addition to the 13 implemented since the law was signed less than a year ago, will have an immediate and positive impact on Veterans and their families using VA benefits to pursue their educational goals.

“We are excited to get the word out about implementation of the provisions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “From the day the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, VA, in collaboration with Veterans service organizations, state approving agencies and School Certifying Officials (SCOs), has taken an expansive approach to ensure earned benefits are provided to Veterans in a timely, high-quality and efficient way.”

Some provisions now available include:

- Recipients of a Purple Heart awarded on or after September 11, 2001, are now eligible for

full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months, if not already entitled.

- Military and Veteran families who have lost a family member can now reallocate transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- Additional Guard and Reserve service now counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.
- Post-9/11 GI Bill students may now receive monthly housing allowance for any days they are not on active duty, rather than having to wait until the next month; and
- Expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program, which makes additional funds available for GI Bill students, now covers more students.

More provisions are scheduled related to science, technology, engineering and math benefit extensions; increased benefit levels; a pilot program for high-technology training geared toward “upskilling” Veterans to enter the workforce quickly; and another expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program, which will be implemented by August 1, 2022. Stay tuned.



# Jan's Letter

As we move into fall, we look forward to relief from the heat. And speaking of fall, we would be remiss in not remembering Veterans Day on November 11, 2018. We salute our Veterans and honor their families for their sacrifices as well.

In this issue, our first topic is about an expansion of educational benefits under the Forever GI Bill. This bill has long since helped our Veterans receive a well-deserved education. Many of our parents and grandparents came from families that could not afford to send their children to college. Through the GI Bill, countless individuals went into the military to get the best, most selfless education in the world. Then, after returning as civilians, had the opportunity to earn a life-changing degree. We are

pleased to announce that 15 more provisions have been added to the Bill.

The second topic is about giving our Veterans with cancers the fighting chance they deserve. Some of you may remember IBM Watson (computer) making a debut on the game show Jeopardy. Today Watson is making an amazing contribution to healthcare – and our Vets are the recipients. VA oncologists have now used IBM Watson for genomics technology to support precision oncology care for more than 2,700 Veterans with cancer. Promising news for our Veterans!

Sincerely,  
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.



## Spotlight Employee

### Pam Mollett

Pam Mollett is a VA Intake Specialist who has been with our firm for 3-1/2 years. In her position, she takes care of lead walk-ins, takes status updates and records – she's the only staff in the Logan office. Obviously a busy lady and conducts every task with great courtesy and a smile.

Pam was born and raised in Logan County, West Virginia. Her father and grandfather were coal miners, so she is easily able to relate to our clients in the Logan area. Prior to joining our team, she was a medical transcriptionist.

"My previous career at a hospital really helps with my job, because I know and understand their conditions and the testing they will go through. I also know their medications."

Pam has a 21-year-old daughter in her third year of college. She has a Yorkie. Pam keeps her mind engaged by being very crafty. She's definitely a go-to person for creative ideas. When she's not at work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



## Office Inbox

### 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 have several new C-File Review Specialists who started back in July. **Brittany Ste. Marie**, **Amy Strong**, **Rachael Deem**, **Nikki Coy**, and **Heather Thomas**. **Patrick Stealey** also joined our firm as a VA Attorney. Former VA Leads Specialist, **Joe Fortuno**, recently transitioned to VA Case Manager and **Chelsey Frederick** moved from VA Records Requester to VA Case Manager.

**Amanda Nicholson** (DDS Specialist) and **Hannah Ross** (Appeals Specialist) recently transitioned from the Social Security (SS) line of business into VA as Case Management Support Specialists. Also coming from SS, **Jaime Caverly** transitioned to Case Management Support and **Jenay Smith** to VA Records Requester.

## Community Spotlight

The Jan Dils team celebrated Parkersburg Homecoming by having a spirit week. We had a dress up theme each day. Themes included 'Merica Monday, Throwback Thursday, Sports Day, Vacation Day, and Pod Pride.



Pictured is our Leads and Intake Pod sporting their blue Pod Pride.

# VA and IBM Watson Health Extend Partnership to Support Veterans With Cancer.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and IBM Watson Health announced the extension of a public-private partnership to apply artificial intelligence (AI) to help interpret cancer data in the treatment of Veteran patients.

First announced two years ago as part of the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative, VA oncologists have now used IBM Watson for Genomics technology to

**“Our mission is to bring the most advanced treatment opportunities to Veterans, in hopes of giving our nation’s heroes better treatments through these breakthroughs”**

– Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke

support precision oncology care for more than 2,700 Veterans with cancer.

Precision oncology is the practice of biologically directed cancer care. For example, the mutations in a cancer’s genome (the cancer’s DNA) can



significantly impact the treatment options available to treat that cancer and the likely outcomes after treatment.

By knowing the cancer genome, oncologists and patients are able to choose therapies that specifically target the patient’s cancer.

The VA’s precision oncology program primarily supports stage 4 cancer patients who have exhausted other treatment

options. The partnership extension with IBM will enable VA oncologists to continue using Watson for Genomics through at least June 2019.

“Our mission is to bring the most advanced treatment opportunities to Veterans, in hopes of giving our nation’s heroes better treatments through these breakthroughs,” said Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “We look forward to

*Continues on back page >>*

## 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.

CIOLACHT   

NIRAHSITC   

LISMUM   

WJHEIS   

HIUND   

Answers: Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu  
Final Messages: RELIGION

Next time you’re craving comfort food, try this Filipino favorite – **Chicken Adobo** – from the kitchen of VA Case Manager, **Joe Fortuno**.

### Ingredients:

1 lb. of skinless/boneless chicken thighs  
1/2 red onion  
3 Tbsp. of garlic powder or  
2 Tbsp. of chopped garlic  
3 tsp. of salt  
1 Tbsp. of black pepper

2 Tbsp. of ginger  
3 Tbsp. of soy sauce  
3 Tbsp. of white vinegar  
3 bay leaves



**DIRECTIONS:** Slice up the chicken thighs into bite-sized cubes and dice up half the red onion. Put a light coating of oil into a large skillet or pot and bring to medium heat. Add the diced onions to the pan first and stir until they start to turn translucent. Next, add the diced garlic and stir it around so the diced garlic doesn’t burn. If you are using garlic powder, wait an additional step. Add the diced chicken and garlic powder, followed by salt, ginger, black pepper and bay leaves. Stir it all together on medium heat until you start seeing the chicken brown. Once it starts to brown, add the soy sauce and vinegar and bring it to a simmer. Simmer an additional 30 minutes so that all the flavors soak into the chicken. Best served over a bed of rice. Enjoy!

## Important Veterans Benefits News For Everyone

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#### *Continued from inside story*

continuing this strategic partnership to assist the VA in providing the best care for our Veterans.”

The VA treats 3.5 percent of the nation’s cancer patients – the largest group of cancer patients within any one health-care group. In order to bring precision oncology advances to this large group of patients, with equal access available anywhere in the country, the VA established a central “hub” in Durham, North Carolina.

In this facility, a small group of oncologists and pathologists receive tumor samples from patients nationwide and sequence the tumor DNA. They then use AI – the ability of a computer program or a machine to think and learn – to help interpret the genomic data, identifying relevant mutations and potential therapeutic options that target those mutations.

More than one-third of the patients who have benefited from the VA’s precision oncology program are Veterans from rural areas where it has traditionally been

difficult to deliver cutting-edge medical breakthroughs.

This is of course great news for our Veterans and a promising expansion of their well-being and benefits for serving our country. At an Dils, Attorneys at Law, we work to make sure all of our Veterans have access to the benefits you deserve. If you are

a Veteran or family member with questions about benefits, don’t hesitate to give us a call at **877-526-3457**.

