

VETERANS BENEFITS & BEYOND

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JAN DILS 
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, L C



Disabled Veterans and Families – What Types of Compensation Are Available?

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The VA Launches a Collaborative Training Initiative to Improve Customer Service

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What's Cooking!
Zucchini Parmesan Chips



Jan Dils

The Veterans Administration's (VA) disability compensation provides monthly benefits to Veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service. The program also provides monthly payments to surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents in recognition of the economic loss caused by a Veteran's death during military service or, after discharge from military service, as a result of a service-connected disability. A summary of the VA's disability compensation programs is below.

Disability Compensation

A tax-free monetary benefit is paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities

that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child or parent of Servicemembers who died while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, or to survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. Parents' DIC is an income-based benefit for parents who were financially dependent on a Servicemember or Veteran who died from a service-related cause.

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Jan's Letter

Every day, week and year we have Veterans coming home and trying to integrate back into civilian life. Some have more family support than others. Many need jobs and affordable housing. And just as alarming, many have come home with disabilities.

The first article is an overview of the types of compensation that are available to our Veterans and, in extremely difficult cases, the families if the Veteran lost his or her life fighting for our country.

As a follow-up piece, Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, is celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Time has really flown. Over the years, we have seen so many roadblocks and unacceptable delays in getting our

Veterans and their families the benefits they truly need. Now, as a part of the Appeals Modernization Act, the VA completed internal training with hopes of delivering consistent, easy-to-understand decisions to Veterans. Of course, we remain optimistic, but as long as Veterans are experiencing denials, we are here to fight the good fight. Never hesitate to reach out for a free consultation.

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

Jolene Reeder

Jolene Reeder joined Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, back in March 2015. She is currently a VA Hearing Clerk, soon to be transferring into the C-file review team. "I love working for our firm because everyone here strives to do our

best so we can get our clients the benefits they deserve," says Jolene. "Everyone is diligent, compassionate and caring."

When Jolene is not working, she enjoys spending time with her two children - Mason (eight) and Charlotte (five). She also enjoys reading, crocheting and listening to music.

Jolene is a real team player and a fine example of the kind of people that build our team chemistry and culture at Jan Dils. We are proud to put the spotlight on Jolene!



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 faces in the VA Pod, including: **Kayla Lowe**, VA Medical Records Requestor; **Kasey Myers**, VA Scheduling Coordinator and **Asia Coon**, VA Case Management Support. And on the move, **Muriah Rollins** has joined the VA team in Case Management, **Ashleigh Harris** as a VA Appeals Specialist, **Carrie Russell** as VA Team Leader, and **Macie Tenney** as a VA Case Manager.

Community Spotlight

Golden Apple Winner

Help us congratulate our December 2018 Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, Golden Apple Award Winner, **Kathleen Cornell**. Ms. Cornell is a teacher at Williamstown Elementary School. She was nominated by the grandmother of a student who was in her class last year. Ms. Cornell went above and beyond for this student and has made a huge difference in his life. She went even further by making special charts for his parents, so they could track his progress.

Ms. Cornell shows a genuine compassion for her students. Though she is relatively new to the school, she's making huge changes with the students she interacts with every day. We thank her for her hard work, and we know she will make a big impact for years to come.



Important Veterans Benefits News For Everyone

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Continued from cover story

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)

SMC is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or by specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person.

Claims Based on Special Circumstances

Veterans may be eligible for other types of disability compensation once a disability has been determined to

be service connected. Special VA disability compensation programs include: individual unemployability, automobile allowance, clothing allowance, hospitalization, convalescence, dental and birth defects.

If you are a Veteran, spouse or parent of a deceased hero having trouble navigating the system and getting the benefits you deserve, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 877-JANDILS or visit our website at jandils.com.



Sources: www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-compensation.asp