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## **Hope and Help for Caregivers of a Loved One with Dementia**

**A**lzheimer's takes a devastating toll, not just on those with the disease, but on their families. The effects of this disease, emotional as well as financial, are felt by many in our society. Today, more than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for over 5 million people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias. It is estimated that caregivers deliver more than 18 billion hours of assistance, often at the cost of personal and financial sacrifices.

The high cost of Alzheimer's on caregivers could be even higher; however, Social Security benefits help offset some of those costs of care and services. Traditional health insurance plans and Medicare do not typically cover long-term nursing home stays that people in the late stages of the disease often require. Social Security is used across the country to pay for critical care services for individuals living with dementia.

Since 2010, Social Security has included Early-Onset Alzheimer's

as a Compassionate Allowances condition for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, providing access to expedited review of Social Security benefit applications for those under the age of 65. The Alzheimer's Association was proud to advocate for this inclusion for its constituents and others affected by this disease.

While we continue to work towards a cure and treatments that will both improve quality of life and reduce costs, it is important to have access to affordable support and services. This includes providing support for those who provide care. To learn more about how Social Security disability insurance works, visit the Social Security disability page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/). You can also visit Social Security's Compassionate Allowances at [www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/](http://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/) to learn more about Alzheimer's and other medical conditions that allow expedited processing of Social Security disability benefits.



## Letter From Jan

Social Security disability benefits are not something everyone will need in their lifetime, but if one does, they can be game changing. It's not a lot of money, but it does help so many families with the basic needs. We touch on that in two of our articles: "Hope and Help for Caregivers of a Loved One with Dementia" and "Perception Isn't Always Reality." Protecting social security benefits should not be a partisan issue. People receiving these benefits are our friends, family and neighbors. Some of them are older, but surprisingly, many of them are young and in the prime of their life. Over the years, our team has come into contact with so many individuals and Veterans with real needs. It does our hearts good to help them achieve positive outcomes. Also, in this month's Blog, I provide a helpful tip for new parents.

Our firm's family recently grew by one, with the birth of River James Britton. There is nothing more fabulous than having a child. But it also doubles your responsibility. Get your little one his or her social security card at the hospital. It's easier and will potentially provide some peace of mind. With that, I hope you have a wonderful spring. And, if you ever need our advice, please don't hesitate to call us at 877.526.3457.

Sincerely,

**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.



## OFFICE INBOX

Attorney **Ambria Adkins** and her husband Travis are proud to announce the birth of their son, River James Britton. He was born November 21, 2017. He weighed 8 lbs. 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

We have several new faces in the office. We are proud to welcome **Joe Hendershot** to our Personal Injury team and to have **Mary Michael McClung** join Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law as our new Human Resources Manager.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

We are proud to announce **Mike Fallon** as our January 2018 Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law **Golden Apple Award Winner**. Mike is an educator at Martin Elementary School and a Basketball Coach at Parkersburg South High School. He's amazing with his students, and he inspires his team to help in the community. Mr. Fallon and his team have raised a lot of money and awareness for two local students who are battling serious illnesses. Watch as Mr. Fallon uses this platform to shine the light on others. Thanks to our friends from WTAP Television, Baker & Baker Jewelers, as well as Martin Elementary School and Parkersburg South High School who helped to make this surprise possible.



## Employee Spotlight

### JEFF HINES

Jeff Hines is a Work Up Specialist at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law. He has been with the firm since May 30, 2017 and is coming up on his one-year anniversary.

"It's been great being a part of this firm.

I really enjoy helping the clients. We have an excellent group of people. I'm a huge sports fan, so, when it comes to

describing the staff at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, I like to use a quote from a former NBA coach: "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." That's us!"

When not working, Jeff's hobbies include bowling, collecting sports memorabilia, and going to sporting events with his 16-year-old son. They are both huge fans of the Cleveland Browns. He has been married for 15 years to his lovely wife Rhonda. Their son is a sophomore at Parkersburg High School and plays football. The Hines have a dog named Chloe and two cats – Nina and Smokey.



# Perception Isn't Always Reality

**AS THE** saying goes, “a little information is a dangerous thing.” Unfortunately, there are some common misconceptions. For example, some people don't understand that workers earn their disability benefit by working and paying Social Security taxes on their earnings.

It's important for the American public to know this is an essential program and has a clear picture of the individuals living with severe disabilities.

Many of you work tirelessly every day to provide service to individuals with disabilities understanding that life can turn on a dime. Those served by Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) are our family members, friends, and neighbors – real people in our communities.

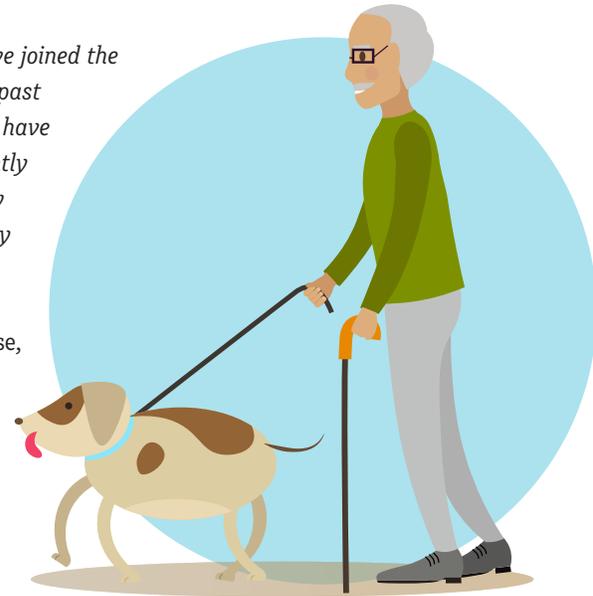
Since inception in 1957, Social Security disability has helped increasing numbers of workers and their families replace lost income. Several factors have contributed to this increase, which the Social Security Trustees and actuaries have projected for decades. The primary factors contributing to the increase are:

- *The baby boomers (people born in 1946 through 1965) reached their most disability-prone years between 1990 and 2011; and*

- *More women have joined the workforce in the past few decades and have worked consistently enough to qualify for benefits if they become disabled.*

Despite the increase, the 9 million or so people getting a Social Security disability benefit represent just a small subset of Americans living with disabilities.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we have great compassion for all people and are here to change misconceptions and fight for benefits for members of our community during times of personal hardship, transition and uncertainty.



Source: [www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/facts.html](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/facts.html) [www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/message.html](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/message.html)

## What's Cooking?

### Spicy Corn Dip

Whether you are bringing an appetizer to a party or home for the evening watching a movie with family or friends, this quick dip can't be beat for taste and a little heat! This month's recipe comes from Social Security Case Manager, **Kayla McCoy**.



#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 Cans Green Giant White Shoepeg Corn
- 1 Small Can Diced Jalapeños
- 1 Block Cream Cheese
- 1 Stick Margarine/Butter



**DIRECTIONS:** Open cans of corn and pour into crockpot or baking dish. Open jalapeños and strain then rinse and add to dish with corn. Cut margarine/butter and cream cheese into blocks – add to corn and jalapeños. If cooking in crock pot, cook on low for an hour then ready to eat. If baking in dish, preheat oven to 350 degrees, bake for 20 minutes, stir, and enjoy with tortilla chips. Easy and delicious!

## IT'S GAME TIME

### COMMONYMS

#### What's a commonym you ask?

A commonym is a group of words that have a common trait in the three words/items listed. For example: the words; A car - A tree - An elephant... they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. May - Bean - Flag
2. Lamb - Pork - Karate
3. Road - Weather - Treasure
4. Penguin - Kiwi - Ostrich
5. Bad T.V. Shows - Stamps - Checks
6. Sheets - Books - Rolls
7. Chips - Sweet - Spears
8. Right - Love - Bermuda
9. Buck - Baby - Wisdom
10. Crab - Caramel - Candy

Answers: 1 Poles 2 Types of chops 3 Maps  
4 Birds that don't fly 5 They all get cancelled  
6 Ways stamps are sold 7 Pickles 8 Triangles  
9 Teeth 10 Apples



**2ND QUARTER / 2018**

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**PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS' BENEFITS / SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

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*Jan Dils  
Blog*

## A Bundle of Security for Your Baby

**A**s a fun fact, the most popular baby names for 2018 are Emma for a girl and Liam for a boy. For new parents, while you ponder that name, here's something else you should be thinking about: getting the baby a Social Security card. The easiest time to do this is when you give information for your child's birth certificate while you're still at the hospital. If you wait to apply for a number at a Social Security office, there may be delays while they verify your child's birth certificate. Why should you get a Social Security number for your infant? There are a number of reasons. First, you need a Social Security number

to claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return. Your child may also need a number if you plan to open a bank account; buy savings bonds; or get medical coverage for the child. And, last but certainly not least, you will need a Social Security card should you ever need to apply for government services for the child. Social Security disability isn't something we like to think about for our newborn, but it's in your family's best interest to cradle your bundle for the rest of his or her life.

