Donald Law Office Newsletter



CORE VALUES

Compassion

Respect

Our Mission: To provide peace of mind to you and your loved ones.

Empathy

Diligence

Matthew W. Donald Founding Attorney Nicole M. Hawks Attorney Nancy Landis Executive Assistant Dawn Malone Office Manager

Sarah Gallenstein
Client Services Coordinator

Monthly Update

It's May! Happy Memorial Day. On Memorial Day, we remember the men and women who died while serving our country. The surviving spouses of these heroes may be eligible for a VA Improved Pension Benefit. This benefit pays the surviving spouse up to \$1,149 each month, TAX FREE. At Donald Law Office, we help people get this benefit.

Quote of the Month

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

-Joseph Campbell

VA Improved Pension Benefit for Veterans and Their Surviving Spouses

The VA pension benefit is a tax-free benefit available to Veterans and surviving spouses of Veterans. There are four basic criteria to get the benefit- service requirement, disability, income, and assets.

- 1) The service requirement says that the Veteran must have served at least 90 days active service with at least one of those days being during a wartime period (so WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf) and the Veteran must not have had a dishonorable discharge.
- 2) The disability requirement says that the Veteran must be at least 65 years old. However, surviving spouses do not have to be at least 65 years old.
- 3) & 4) The income and assets requirement varies depending upon each person's medical situation.

Once a person meets the requirements, there are three different levels of the VA benefit-base, housebound, and aid and attendance. It is best to think of this as a pyramid. Generally, you cannot get to the top of the pyramid unless you meet the lower levels.

- A) The lowest level is the base and this is for those with the least health issues, who could just use some financial help. For a Veteran who is married, the maximum amount for this benefit is \$1.404 a month.
- B) The next level is the housebound and this is for those who are essentially confined to the home. For a Veteran who is married, the maximum amount for this benefit is \$1,642 a month.
- C) The highest level is the aid and attendance and this is for those who need help with at least two activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, eating, transferring, hygiene) or for those in a nursing home and the amount is \$2,120 a month.

Special Events

OPEN HOUSE! Cookout at Donald Law Office. FREE food, FREE Prizes, FREE ice cream from Schaffner's, FREE Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will and more!

Friday, June 12, 2015

11:00 am - 2:00 pm AND 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Upcoming Workshops

May 26, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 pm Donald Law Office 600 West Market Street, Suite D Baltimore, OH 43105

Call or email to register!

Contact Us

Phone Number: 740-400-4194

Fax: 740-400-4195

Email: info@donalawoffice.com

Visit our site!

www.donaldlawoffice.com

Check out our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/DonaldLawOffice