

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

JAN DILS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, L.C.

VETERANS BENEFITS & BEYOND



VA Approves \$8.8 Million in Grants to Provide Transportation and Renovated Housing for Homeless Veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has approved \$8.8 million in grants to fund 164 projects in 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to rehabilitate currently operational transitional housing projects and acquire vans to facilitate the transportation needs of homeless Veterans. “President Obama has made eliminating Veterans’ homelessness a national priority,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We want every Veteran who faces homelessness to know that VA is here to help. The Grant and Per Diem Program provides significant assistance to those who need it.”

The grants awarded through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program are for currently operational grantees, who will use this funding to rehabilitate their current project locations to enhance safety, security and privacy for the homeless Veterans they serve. Additionally, funding for these organizations to acquire vans will assist homeless Veterans with transportation to medical appointments and employment opportunities, as well as enable grantees to conduct outreach within their communities. GPD helps close gaps in available housing for the nation’s most vulnerable homeless Veterans, including men and women with children, Indian tribal populations, and Veterans with substance use and mental health issues. Community-based programs funded by GPD provide homeless Veterans

with support services and housing. GPD grants are offered annually as funding is available by VA’s homeless Veterans programs.

Lisa Pape, National Director of Homeless Programs, which oversees GPD, said, “These grant awards are a reinvestment in the community that will strengthen community services around the country so that homeless Veterans have access to safe and secure housing and receive quality support and services.”

She added that, “The 2013 GPD grant awards represent an ongoing commitment to VA’s community partners. These awards will make community-based GPD facilities safer and secure, ensuring that our community partners continue to provide excellent mental health support, employment assistance and job training with the essential component of housing. Whether it is aid in overcoming substance use or finding a job, a community helping hand is exactly what these Veterans need to lead a better quality of life.”

Since 2009, homelessness among Veterans has decreased more than 17 percent. As part of President Obama’s and Shinseki’s five-year plan to eliminate Veteran homelessness by 2015, VA has committed over \$1 billion in fiscal year 2014 to strengthen programs that prevent and treat the many issues that can lead to Veteran homelessness.

(Source: <http://va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2492>)

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Jan Dils



JAN'S LETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2014! I hope you are as excited as I am to start a brand new year. Each year, my team and I come up with a list of new ways that we can serve our Veterans in the fight to receive their benefits. But we also take the opportunity to renew our commitment to approaching each and every case as if it is the only one we are working, and treating our clients with the respect and care they deserve. That means taking the time to get to know you and your individual circumstances, and ensuring that we keep you up-to-date on each step in the process.

If you've received newsletters from us before, you know that I always encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have, and to put our experience and expertise to work for you.

Whether you are just starting out, you've been approved for benefits, or at any stage in between, we are always glad to hear from you, and happy to help you understand the process and report on our progress in your case.

Finally, I want to take a moment to wish all of our friends and family (which includes our clients, of course!) a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2014!

Sincerely,
Jan Dils



JAN DILS brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. Her knowledge across vital areas – including Veterans' benefits, disability benefits and related appeals and claims – and a practice that focuses on the people, ensures you get answers and the right results.

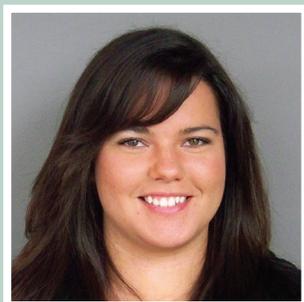
Jan Dils Team Holds Successful Cookout to Benefit Veterans.

The Jan Dils team recently came together with local Veterans and the entire community to enjoy some delicious food and raise money for the Walk4Vets Foundation. In total, the cookout brought in \$417.75, which included a very special donation of \$80 from Criss Elementary School. The students held their own fundraiser, and donated the proceeds to the Jan Dils team's Veteran's Cookout. (It doesn't hurt that Jan Dils attended Criss Elementary during her own school years!) Approximately 200 people enjoyed good food and even better company despite chilly temperatures.

It is always an honor to help our Veterans, and show them just how thankful we all are for their service to our country and the sacrifices they made for the freedoms we enjoy every day. The cookout was such a success that we look forward to making it a regular event! Thanks to all who cooked, served, and joined in the fun—we will let you know when the next event is scheduled so you can mark your calendars!



(Source: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2466)



SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE

Alyssa Cale

When she started her career at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law as a receptionist in 2012, Alyssa Cale made it her goal to work her way up the ladder and into the VA Department. Through hard work and a dedication to helping Veterans, Alyssa soon became a VA Case Manager. "Veterans hold a special place in my heart, and this is truly a rewarding position," said Alyssa, a West Virginia native who was born in Parkersburg and raised on a farm in Walker. When she's not in the kitchen trying out new recipes, Alyssa can be found staying in touch via technology with her family in Florida and Puerto Rico, listening to music, or taking photographs—almost always with her dog Warner by her side. Please join us in thanking Alyssa for all of her hard work and dedication to making a difference in the lives of the Veterans we serve!

BRAIN GAME

A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent.

MUSICALLY	DOG THE
cut rest	GOODBYE

ANSWERS: 1. Musically Inclined 2. The Underdog 3. Cut Above the Rest 4. Waving Goodbye

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.

And the Apple Goes To... Cheryl Wingrove of the Jan Dils team had the pleasure of presenting October's Golden Apple Award to **Mrs. Anna Deem**, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after a long and successful career of teaching first grade. Mrs. Deem was actually nominated for the award by a former student who is now a coworker at Lubeck Elementary School, and says that she was inspired to become a teacher by Mrs. Deem. Her peers say that she always goes above and beyond by spending extra time to prepare her classroom and is always available to help her students or speak with their parents. Mrs. Deem noted that receiving the Golden Apple Award was the perfect way to wrap up a long and successful teaching career.

Described as "not just a teacher, but a life changer", **Lucy Holland** of Blennerhassett Middle School was chosen to receive November's Golden Apple Award. The Spanish teacher was nominated by a former student who described her teaching style as tough, but effective. "My class is not easy," said Ms. Holland. "It is very challenging for them. They have to study and do a lot of stuff for me but at the same time, we have a lot of fun." Her coworkers agree that her enthusiasm and excitement make her an exceptional educator.

Please join us in congratulating these two extraordinary teachers, and thanking them for the difference they make in the lives of our future leaders each and every day.



Say "Adios" to the same old thing – try Trisha's Chicken Tortilla Soup!

Our own Casey Knotts recommends this delicious chicken dish from the kitchen of country music star Trisha Yearwood. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
Three 14-ounce cans chicken broth
4 cups half-and-half
One 10.75-ounce can cream of chicken soup
1 cup prepared salsa, mild or spicy
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, boiled, drained and shredded

One 15-ounce can black beans, drained
One 15-ounce can kidney beans, drained
One 15-ounce can whole kernel corn, drained
2 teaspoons ground cumin
One 1.27-ounce packet fajita seasoning
One 16-ounce bag tortilla chips
8 ounces Monterey Jack, grated
8 ounces sharp Cheddar, grated
1/2 cup sour cream

Directions: Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the garlic and the onion and saute until softened, 5 minutes. Add the flour and stir well, cooking for 1 minute more. Add the broth and the half-and-half. Stir in the cream of chicken soup, salsa, chicken, beans, corn, cumin and fajita seasoning. Continue to simmer over low heat for 15 minutes. Crumble the tortilla chips into individual bowls and top with a ladle of soup. Sprinkle each serving with cheese and add a dollop of sour cream, then dig in!



IT'S TIME TO...

- ...Say hello to 2014! **January 1st is New Year's Day.**
- ...Give someone special a squeeze. **January 21st is National Hugging Day.**
- ...Decide between apple, blueberry, or cherry. **January 23rd is National Pie Day.**
- ...Be on the lookout for shadows. **February 2nd is Groundhog Day.**
- ...Become someone's secret admirer. **February 14th is Valentine's Day.**
- ...Celebrate the contributions of 44 great men. **February 17th is Presidents Day.**

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DID YOU KNOW? The Jan Dils team includes the expertise to tackle even the toughest personal injury case.

When it comes to Social Security Disability and Veterans claims, Jan Dils "Won't Take No For An Answer". But did you know that Jan's expertise extends to the area of Personal Injury law, as well? Jan Dils has been partnered with attorney Jim Leach for over 17 years to offer a highly successful, team approach to representing clients in West Virginia.

Using a unique case management system that keeps track of every aspect of each case, Jan Dils, Jim Leach, and their legal team work hard to ensure that their clients receive the best legal representation available for personal injury claims.

Their team approach is ready to help you if you have been the victim of an automobile accident, medical malpractice, or a defective product, just to name a few.

Personal injuries of any kind can be sudden, tragic and financially devastating events. The goal of both Jan Dils and Jim Leach is to provide you with real answers to your questions. They are able to explain the process in a way that helps their clients understand the process from the very start.

They fight to get clients compensation for:

- **Medical expenses**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Lost wages**
- **Future lost income**
- **Pain and suffering**
- **Funeral expenses** (in the case of wrongful death)



If you are looking for a qualified attorney with trial experience whose best practices are based on integrity and trust, call the personal injury lawyers at Jan Dils & Jim Leach, Attorneys at Law, today at **1-877-JanJim I (1-877-526-5461)**. They represent clients throughout the state of West Virginia and would be happy to discuss your case.