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Social Security Speeds Up Disability Application Process for Wounded Warriors

In a welcome move, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has developed a special process to handle [Social Security Disability \(SSDI\) applications](#) for certain members of the military service.



If you or a family member became disabled while on active military duty on or after October 1, 2001, you are eligible for this expedited process. It doesn't matter where your disability occurred and your condition does not have to be related to your military service.

Note that SSDI is a separate program from disability benefits available through the Department of



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BLOG

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Veterans Affairs, with its own application process.

Eligibility for Expedited Processing

Service members from all branches of the military are eligible for expedited claims, as long as the claimant was on active duty when the disability began. The SSA defines as active duty those who are:

- Full-time service members in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, including those on active duty for training purposes
- Army or Air Force National Guard that have been ordered to active full-time duty during a war or other national emergency
- Students at U.S. Military academies and at pre-deployment training facilities
- Reservists called to active duty, undergoing full-time and annual training, and those attending a Military Service School

Identify Yourself

To speed up the process when applying, simply inform the SSA that your disability began while on active duty. It is helpful to identify where your military records are kept and be sure to provide proof of military service.

When your application is received, the SSA will mark it "Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior." This identification will ensure that it is expedited through the approval process as a "critical case."

How to Apply

You may apply for disability benefits while you are in military status or after your discharge, whether you are hospitalized or in a rehabilitation facility.

Apply online at

www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors or at your nearest Social Security office. Complete information is available in the SSA's brochure [Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors](#) and at the [SSA website](#).

[Applying for SSDI](#) is complicated and can seem overwhelming. Our experienced legal team can help you navigate through the process for the best outcome for you and your family.

Think You Know Disneyland? Think Again!

With more than 16,000,000 visitors each year, our own Disneyland ranks #15 in [Travel & Leisure's](#) top 52 most visited tourist attractions in the world! Test your Disneyland knowledge with these little-known facts:



- Walt Disney's new venture was named for the little creature that started it all: "Mickey Mouse Park."

- Marceline, Missouri (current population 2,185) was Walt's inspiration for Main Street, USA.
- You can't buy gum in any of the Disneyland shops – Walt didn't want his guests to have sticky shoes.
- Presidents from both sides of the aisle have visited – Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Obama.
- Walt's brother Roy bought the first ticket at the 1955 opening for the princely sum of \$1.
- Walt had an apartment built on the second floor of the Main Street Firehouse to allow him to work quietly or enjoy family and friends. A light still burns in the window as a tribute to his creativity.
- At the 1959 grand opening ceremony for the Monorail, Matterhorn bobsleds and submarine ride, honored guests included Vice President Richard Nixon and Meredith Willson, the composer and lyricist of the musical show and movie "The Music Man." Walt had a surprise for Willson: down Main Street USA came marching an all-brass band complete with 76 trombones playing the show's hit "Seventy-Six Trombones."
- One of the steeples on Sleeping Beauty's castle is unfinished because Walt wanted cast members to be reminded that Disneyland is never finished!

If you or a loved one has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-438-7734**

for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, [Social Security attorney in Van Nuys](#), can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month:

Pine Nut and Feta Cheese Ball



Planning a March Madness party? Here's a great snack to enjoy when you're watching the game!

Ingredients

- 4 ounces room-temperature cream cheese
- 4 ounces room-temperature feta, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons room-temperature unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 2 tablespoons oregano leaves
- 2 teaspoons toasted fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- Salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped toasted pine nuts

Directions:

Process 4 ounces room-temperature cream cheese, 4 ounces room-temperature feta, crumbled, and 2 tablespoons room-temperature unsalted butter in a food processor until smooth. Pulse in 2 tablespoons capers, 2 tablespoons oregano leaves, 2 teaspoons toasted fennel seeds, and 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest; season with salt. Scrape into a small plastic wrap-lined bowl; gather up plastic around cheese, shaping into a ball. Chill until firm, 3-12 hours.

Unwrap cheese ball and roll in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped toasted pine nuts just before serving. Serve with crackers.

What's Happening in Southern California in March 2015

Feb. 28 – Mar. 28, 2015

The Real Thing – play
Long Beach Playhouse, Long Beach

Mar. 14, 2015

The Australian Bee Gees Show
Balboa Theatre, San Diego

Mar. 1, 2015

DUB Magazine Custom Auto Show
South Hall, Convention Center, LA

Mar. 14 – 15, 2015

CRSSD Festival
Waterfront Park, San Diego

Mar. 5 – 8, 2015

San Diego Bird Festival
Baja room, Marina Village Conf. Center,
Mission Bay

Mar. 14, 17, 20, & 22, 2015

Nixon in China – musical
San Diego Civic Theatre, San Diego

Mar. 6 – 7, 2015

Golf Fest
Oaks North Golf Course, San Diego

Mar. 17 – 31, 2015

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella
– musical
Ahmanson Theater, LA

Mar. 6 – 8, 2015

San Diego Half Marathon 2015

Mar. 21, 2015

Alton Brown Live

Convention Center, San Diego

Pantages Theatre, Hollywood

Mar. 11 – 13, 2015

World Floral Expo
West Hall B, Convention Center, LA

Mar. 21, 2015

Simply Wine Festival
CBS Studios, Studio City

Mar. 12, 2015

Electric Six
The Roxy Theatre, West Hollywood

Mar. 21, 2015

Latin Food Fest Grande Tasting
Santa Monica Beach Park, Santa
Monica

Mar. 14, 2015

Literary Women: Festival of Authors
Convention Center, Long Beach

Mar. 21 – 22, 2015

Swan Lake
Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine



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