

## Damiens Law Firm specializes in Estate and VA Pension Planning



D. Joseph Damiens, III is the Principal of Damiens Law Firm and is dedicated to helping veterans and their families with any and all of their legal needs. Here are just a few of his accomplishments:

- Member of WealthCounsel, a national association of estate and wealth preservation professionals
- Member of the Mississippi Bar Associations
- Member of both the Trust & Estate and Taxation Sections of the Mississippi Bar
- Member of the Estate Planning Council of Mississippi
- Earned law degree from Mississippi College School of Law
- Earned a Master of Tax Law (LL.M.) from the University of Alabama

## You might be entitled up to \$2,127 to help pay your home care or assisted living facility stay.

If you haven't planned ahead and purchased long-term care insurance, which many haven't, the high costs of an assisted living facility stay can quickly deplete a lifetime of savings. You may be eligible for a monthly Veterans pension benefit to assist in easing the burdensome costs, provided a handful of eligibility factors are met.

**SURVIVING SPOUSE:**  
up to **\$1,153 per month**

**SINGLE VETERAN:**  
up to **\$1,794 per month**

**MARRIED VETERAN:**  
up to **\$2,127 per month**

## ARE YOU A VETERAN OR MARRIED TO ONE?



The VA Improved Pension provides financial assistance to qualified veterans and their surviving spouses.

This pension is a benefit that veterans earn due to their service to our country, but few have ever heard about it. We hope to change that and assist veterans and their families with their financial needs.

**CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE**



**DAMIENS**  
LAW

PHONE : 601.957.9672

FAX : 601.957.9669

JDAMIENS@DAMIENSLAW.COM



**DAMIENS**  
LAW

## WHO CAN YOU TRUST? HOW CAN YOU GET KNOWLEDGABLE ASSISTANCE?

As you know, life can change at the drop of a hat. An appropriate financial plan will be flexible, allowing for changes that occur in health, care needs, income needs, and more. We believe all citizens, and especially those that have served our country, deserve adequate care in their later years. Your advisor needs to know how

to meet the needs of the family, protect their assets, and ensure that there are adequate funds to cover basic living expenses and medical cost, while allowing the clients to qualify for the assistance of VA pension, if possible. It is a balance that we are accustomed to managing.



## WHAT IS THE VA IMPROVED PENSION?

The VA Improved Pension was established to provide financial assistance to veterans and their spouses, allowing them to live out their lives in dignity and afford basic necessities.

This benefit is not dependent upon service related injuries. It helps cover the cost of qualified, un-reimbursed medical expenses, including in-home care and assisted living facility care.

Though it has been in existence for decades, most veterans and their families have never even heard about it and if they have, they are not given guidance on how to qualify.

## HOW CAN I QUALIFY?

Typically, eligibility for the benefit can be met as long as three factors exist:

**SERVICE:** The veteran has served 90 consecutive days in the service, with at least one day during a qualifying war period;

**DISCHARGE:** The veteran received a discharge other than dishonorable; and

**HEALTH:** The veteran is disabled and unable to work OR 65+ and in need of some assistance.

The remaining eligibility factors are financial, and can be met through restructuring assets and income. Unfortunately, with Veterans Benefits planning becoming more widely known, so have scams to take advantage of unsuspecting seniors. If you meet with an advisor that recommends you transfer your life savings directly to illiquid insurance products, be wary. This type of plan is rarely beneficial in the long-term.

## COMMON MYTHS ABOUT THE VETERANS PENSION BENEFIT

**“I have more than \$80,000 in assets. I won’t qualify for Veterans pension benefits.”**

Certain assets aren’t included in eligibility determinations.  
Regardless of the assets you have, you aren’t immediately disqualified.

**“I’m not in a VA-certified nursing home. I won’t qualify for Veterans pension benefits.”**

Qualifying medical expenses may include home health care, assisted living, and non-VA certified nursing homes.

**“I didn’t retire from the military. I won’t qualify for Veterans pension benefits.”**

Eligibility is not based on whether you retired from the military or not.

Please be aware that submission of an application that does not meet the financial criteria can cause a delay of benefits up to 12 months.