



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

Widow Social Security Benefits

In the previous newsletter, I reported that widows in Korea are now eligible for U.S. Social Security benefits even if they are not U.S. citizens or did not live in the U.S. for five years. Now here more information to help you make decisions about when to start taking Social Security.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if you do not live in the U.S. as a resident alien, you are required to pay income tax of 25.5% on your Social Security benefits. This is automatically taken out of your benefits and it is not refundable. This is important to know especially if you are receiving the VA Death Pension of \$533. For every dollar that you receive in Social Security or other income, you lose one dollar in VA money. The total Social Security income is counted, including the money kept back for tax. So you could lose money if you start taking Social Security too soon if you receive \$533 from VA. That is because the longer you wait, the more Social Security money you will receive. For widows born in 1939 or earlier, the benefits are paid as follows:

<u>Widow Age</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
60	71.5%
61	77.2%
62	82.9%
63	88.6%
64	94.3%
65	100%

So, for example, if your husband was receiving \$800 in Social Security and you decide to start taking widow Social Security at age 60, your benefits would be \$577.72. But if you are a non-resident alien, they keep 25.5% in tax, so you would only receive \$430.30. If you receive the VA Death Pension of \$533, that would stop because your total Social Security benefit of \$577.72 is more than \$533. But instead of receiving \$533 from the VA, you would only be receiving \$430.30 from Social Security, a reduction of more than \$100 per month.

If you wait until age 65, you would receive 100%, or the full \$800. After taxes, you would receive \$596 in Social Security and the VA \$533 would stop, but you would be receiving \$63 more each month.

People are living longer now and the U.S. Social Security system would lose money if no changes were made. So starting in 2000, the age to receive full Social Security benefits started going up from age 65. All widows are eligible to receive 71.5% at age 60. If you were born

after 1939, the age when you will be able to receive 100% of benefits is going up. The list below shows the year you were born and the age when you can receive full benefits.

<u>Widow Born in</u>	<u>Age for Full Benefits</u>
19400102-19410101	65 years and 2 months
19410102-19420101	65 years and 4 months
19420102-19430101	65 years and 6 months
19430102-19440101	65 years and 8 months
19440102-19450101	65 years and 10 months
19450102-19570101	66 years
19570101-19580101	66 years and 2 months
19580102-19590101	66 years and 4 months
19590102-19600101	66 years and 6 months
19600102-19610101	66 years and 8 months
19610102-19620101	66 years and 10 months
19620101 and later	67 years

The chart on the next page shows the percentage of benefits you would receive from age 60 to age 67. Instructions on how to use the chart are at the bottom.

Full benefits are the amount of money your husband was receiving in Social Security benefits. If he never received Social Security then you would receive 100% of his benefits. The actual amount of money you would receive depends on how much he earned under Social Security.

If you would like to know how much money you would receive from Social Security, please call the RAO at 031-661-1441. I will send you a letter to sign, and then I can send it to the Social Security office in Baltimore.

Year of Birth	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945-56	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Delay mos	0	+2	+4	+6	+8	+10	+12	+14	+16	+18	+20	+22	+24
Age 60	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%	71.5%
Age 61	77.2%	77.0%	76.8%	76.7%	76.5%	76.4%	76.3%	76.1%	76.0%	75.9%	75.8%	75.7%	75.6%
Age 62	82.9%	82.5%	82.2%	81.9%	81.6%	81.3%	81.0%	80.7%	80.5%	80.3%	80.1%	79.8%	79.6%
Age 63	88.6%	88.0%	87.5%	87.0%	86.6%	86.2%	85.8%	85.4%	85.0%	84.7%	84.3%	84.0%	83.7%
Age 64	94.3%	93.6%	92.9%	92.2%	91.6%	91.0%	90.5%	90.0%	89.5%	89.0%	88.6%	88.2%	87.8%
Age 65	100.0%	99.1%	98.2%	97.4%	96.6%	95.9%	95.3%	94.6%	94.0%	93.4%	92.9%	92.4%	91.9%
Age 66	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.2%	98.5%	97.8%	97.2%	96.5%	95.9%
Age 67	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The chart above lets you see what percentage of your husband's Social Security benefits you will receive based on your year of birth and the age you decide to start receiving your own Social Security benefits. To find the number, go across the top row to find your year of birth. Then go down the column to the age that you think you want to start receiving Social Security.

For example, if you were born in 1947 and want to know what percentage of benefits you will receive at age 62, go across the row titled "Year of Birth" until you come to 1945-1956. Then go down that column until you come to age 62 (the age is shown in the left column). You will see that at age 62, you would receive 81% of whatever Social Security money your husband was receiving. If your husband died before receiving Social Security, then you would get 81% of his full Social Security entitlement.

If you would like an estimate of the Social Security benefit you would receive please call the RAO at 031-661-1441. I will send you a letter to sign that I can send to Social Security asking for this information.

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