

Spring Newsletter

Greetings,

A new season has come once again and spring has finally sprung. Coming out of the winter months and also into a new year, we hope that we can begin to shed the layers of this past year and start anew. Our way of life has changed so much over the past year and continues to change moving forward. While no one knows what the future might hold, we hold onto the hope that things will get better.

We continue to pray for each and every one of you and your families. With love in our hearts, we wish the best for all of you.

Steve + Teresa Dillard

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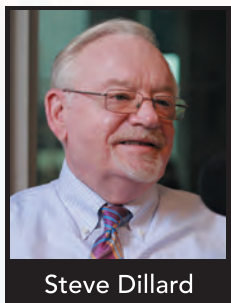


Dillard
Financial Solutions, Inc.

the Chief's CORNER



Insight from Federal Retirement Benefits Authority, Steve Dillard



Steve Dillard

Securing your future has never been more critical...with our rapidly changing way of life and uncertain future, a little forward thinking and proper planning can go a long way. Especially, when it comes to retirement planning.

Moving into retirement can be a scary thing. However, with the right tools and a strong plan, you can start planting the seeds to grow a beautiful and prosperous retirement. Here at Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. we assist with growing your retirement.

With COVID-19 still looming and travel expenses increasing, we would like to remind everyone, that while we're happy to assist you in person; we're equipped to utilize video calling or a good old-fashioned phone call. It's always an easy way to get your questions answered quickly.

Contact us today to set up a complimentary consultation whether it be by phone, Zoom, or in person, we'll help you and your family not only into retirement, but throughout retirement.

We wish you continued good health and prosperity in these especially trying times.

Be safe & God bless you,

Steve Dillard

Steve Dillard
CEO of Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc.



Steve Dillard is the CEO of Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. For over 30 years, he has helped guide federal employees through their retirement. He's the author of hundreds of educational articles and has been featured in Forbes magazine twice. Steve travels extensively throughout all 50 states sharing his strategies as a sought-after federal retirement benefits educator. Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. is a verified vendor on the U.S. Federal Contractor Registry and provides educational workshops focusing on retirement solutions.

*Applicants must meet suitability requirements. Returns are guaranteed by the reserves of the insurance companies.
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*We are Fiduciaries for your retirement needs.
Here at Dillard Financial Solutions, we strive to always
act in the best interest of our clients.*

Keeping an Eye on Inflation

As the economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the question on everyone's mind is whether the uptick in inflation will persist. SOURCE: Nolan - Inflation and Q4 Review of 2021



USED CARS & TRUCKS
UP 29.7%
IN 2021

INFLATION HAS BEEN RISING CONSISTENTLY, and thus far, it shows no signs of slowing. The 6.8% reading in November was the highest since June of 1982, and December finished higher than 7%!

The Federal Reserve has acknowledged this trend by removing their “transitory” comments from recent press releases and have responded by tapering the level of monthly bond purchases. They’ve also suggested raising interest rates over this year and next. Time will tell if these actions actually takes place, but the change in policy clearly signals an end to the monetary policy enacted to combat the pandemic.

Even with a concerning inflation situation, corporate profit outlooks haven’t swayed. Consensus estimates for 2022 continue rising as the economic recovery builds momentum. Furthermore, the employment situation remains one of the *most unique in history*, with jobs available to nearly anyone willing to work—at pay rates much higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Whether or not higher wages and expenses will take a toll on 2022 earnings remains to be seen. As evidenced by the sharp rise in the Consumer Price Index, much of the cost has been passed directly to the end user. With the Federal Reserve tightening monetary policy and fiscal stimulus waning, the ramifications are difficult to predict. But, as the situation resolves itself, we shouldn’t assume that the good times will last forever. Instead, we may want to prepare for a more volatile 2022.

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We have the answers to these questions and more!

- **What do I do first?**
- **What will my income be?**
- **How do I secure my retirement?**
- **When can I retire?**



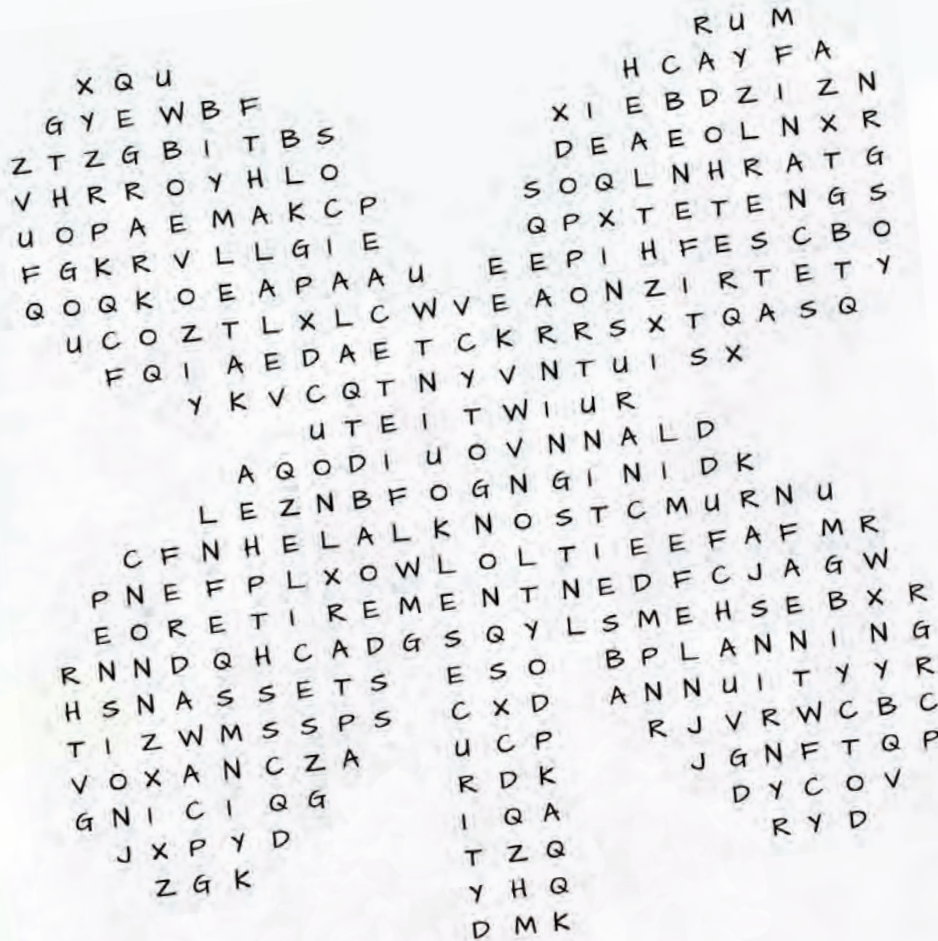
Shamrock Salad



- 1 carton (16 ounces) whipped topping
- 1 package instant pistachio pudding mix
- 6 to 7 drops green food coloring, optional
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows

- 1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits, undrained
- 1/2 cup chopped pistachios, walnuts, or pecans
- Additional whipped topping, optional

In a large bowl, combine whipped topping, pudding mix and food coloring if desired. Fold in the marshmallows and pineapple. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Just before serving, top with additional whipped topping if desired, sprinkle with nuts.



- RETIREMENT
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- ANNUITY
- PENSION
- PLANNING
- FINANCES
- REST
- BENEFITS
- TRAVEL
- INSURANCE
- PROTECTION
- RELAXATION
- PEACE
- INDEPENDENCE
- HEALTH
- OPPORTUNITIES
- ASSETS
- EARNINGS

May the sun always shine on your windowpane,
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
 May the hand of a friend always be near you &
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Revised Life Expectancy Tables

Even though the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that life expectancy in the U.S. fell by nearly two years in 2020, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) hasn't changed course. As the tax collection agency takes a longer-term view, their new life expectancy tables take effect in 2022, based on more longevity than the now-replaced 2002 version. The new tables have a broad impact, especially on required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts.

Life Expectancy for Beneficiaries After Inheriting A Retirement Account (Years)

AGE	OLD	NEW
60	25.2	27.1
70	17.0	18.8
75	13.4	14.8
80	10.2	11.2
85	7.6	8.1
90	5.5	5.7

Similar changes appear in the new Uniform Lifetime Table, used by most IRA and qualified plan owners subject to RMDs. Most 75-year-olds, for example, now will take RMDs based on a 24.6-year life expectancy versus 22.9 years under the old table.

Altogether, three life expectancy tables have changed:

1. The Uniform Lifetime Table - used for most lifetime RMDs.
2. The Joint and Last Survivor Table - used instead of the Uniform Lifetime Table when the account owner's spouse, the sole primary beneficiary, is more than ten years younger than the account owner.

How significant are the changes?

The Single Life Expectancy Table to be used by account beneficiaries of decedents dying before 2020 or eligible designated beneficiaries of an account owner dying after 2019 previously showed a life expectancy of 34.2 years for age 50. That number is 36.2 years on the new table. Thus, a beneficiary starting RMDs at age 50 for a \$100,000 inherited Individual Retirement Account (IRA) would have begun with a \$2,923.98 distribution ($\$100,000/34.2$) under the prior table. Now, the same RMDs would start at \$2,762.43 ($\$100,000/36.2$).



3. The Single Life Expectancy Table - used only by eligible designated beneficiaries of retirement accounts or IRAs inherited after 2019. Beneficiaries of owners who died before 2020 would use the new version of this table for RMDs in 2022 and future years if they elected to stretch distributions over their life expectancy.

Under the SECURE ACT, eligible designated beneficiaries (EDBs) of IRAs and other retirement account owners who inherited from owners who died after 2019 also use the Single Life Expectancy table. EDBs include surviving spouses, disabled and chronically ill individuals, beneficiaries who are not more than ten years younger than the retirement account owner, and minor children of the deceased.

Setting the Tables

All three revised life expectancy tables show greater life expectancy than the predecessor tables from 2002. Longer life expectancy means lower RMDs each year and more opportunities to reduce taxes paid each year—if the lower RMD is sufficient to meet spending needs.

If someone is just starting RMDs this year as an account owner, the proper approach to the new tables is simple. Take the year-end 2021 balance and divide it by the life expectancy (determined by their attained age in 2022) shown on the relevant table to find the RMD for 2022. Ensure that at least the RMD amount is withdrawn in 2022 to avoid a 50% penalty on any shortfall.

IRA and retirement account owners will repeat the process each year. However, an EDB will only refer to the new life expectancy table the year after the death of the original account owner. Each subsequent year, the divisor is reduced by one.

For existing RMD recipients transitioning to the new tables this year, the proper procedure can be a bit more tedious, particularly for beneficiaries with inherited accounts. Nevertheless, there is no need to panic about making the right move from an old to a new table.

One reason to remain calm is that IRA custodians and plan administrators are required to calculate account owners' RMDs each year, under the new tables, for 2022 and beyond. RMD numbers will be reported to account owners who owe RMDs, and arrangements will be offered to ensure compliance.

Further, the downside is scant, even if RMDs are taken under the old tables rather than the new ones. A 50-year-old eligible designated beneficiary who inherits a \$100,000 IRA this year and withdraws \$2,923.98 in 2022, using the 2021 table, rather than the \$2,762.43 required under the new table won't be in any danger of an IRS challenge for the excess distribution. The slightly larger distribution will

increase the tax payment slightly, but there would be nothing improper about this error.

Few people relish paying more tax than necessary, so deriving the true “minimum” in RMD should be everyone's goal, assuming no need for the extra cash. Account owners and financial professionals alike should make a genuine effort to take advantage of the potential tax relief inherent in the new tables.

Initial RMDs

Individuals who were subject to their first RMD in 2021 will use the former tables to calculate that RMD, even if they wait until as late as April 1, 2022, to take the distribution.

Suppose Jane turned 72 in December 2021, so her required beginning date (RBD) for RMDs from her IRA is April 1, 2022. She takes the 2021 RMD on March 31, 2022, and Jane will use the old Uniform Lifetime Table for her 2021 RMD. From now on, Jane will take RMDs using the revised version of the table.

Ongoing RMDs

The situation can become trickier if the RMD is for a non-spousal beneficiary of an account inherited before 2020. Post 2021 RMDs must be recalculated using the 2022 tables as if they were in effect the year after the original owner's death.

Making Certain

Even though IRA custodians and plan administrators are required to adopt the new life expectancy tables for calculating post-2021 RMDs, financial professionals should double-check the calculations to ensure that clients' RMDs are appropriately calculated under the revised tables. Glitches can occur, especially if account owners and beneficiaries have set up automatic payments of RMDs. Helping your clients navigate the new calculation of RMDs is another way you can provide ongoing value to your relationships.

SOURCE: Heather L. Schreiber, RICP

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Request a meeting today to talk to a licensed federal advisor to see where you stand toward retirement and see how secure your retirement income will be.

*Call or
email today!*

1-800-692-7643

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Interesting STUFF

We can't sneeze or cough when in deep sleep.

Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is the most-followed person on Instagram and Facebook (Kim Kardashian is 8th).



Planet Pluto was named by an 11-year-old named Venetia Burney Phair.

Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" 3 years after his publisher bet him that he couldn't write a book in 50 words or less. (it's exactly 50 words!)



Put all together, a human body's blood vessels can circle the Earth, over 2 times.

Just like humans, dogs can be left-pawed or right-pawed.

Donald Duck's middle name is Fauntleroy.



The first football in the world was manufactured from a pig's bladder.

Fruit flies were the first living creatures sent into space. (Accidentally, of course!)

Nepal is the only country in the world without a rectangular flag.



Except for humans, the most intelligent creatures in the world are:

- 1 - Chimpanzee
- 2 - Dolphin
- 3 - Orangutan
- 4 - Octopus
- 5 - Crow



Mount Rushmore was built for a little less than one million dollars. Adjusted for inflation, that's \$17 million today.

When the two numbers on opposite sides of the dice are added together, the result is always 7.



The mosquito has the record for killing more people than any other species in written history.



There is no English word that rhymes with orange.

2022 Will Be the Last Time This Social Security Change Happens

SOURCE: *The Motley Fool*



In most years, Social Security undergoes important changes. These include an annual benefits increase if a consumer price index shows costs going up, as well as an increase in how much income is subject to Social Security taxes.

In recent years, something else has changed as well -- and it's affected when retirees can claim their standard benefit, as well as how much income Social Security will provide to them. The 2022 year is the last time this adjustment will occur, though, and it's important for every current and future retiree to realize the implications of that fact.

In recent years, full retirement age has been changing for newly eligible Social Security beneficiaries. However, 2022 is the last time this will happen.

Now, if you aren't familiar with the intricacies of the retirement benefits program, chances are you aren't certain what this means or why it matters. If that's the case, here's what you need to know:

Retirees first become eligible for Social Security retirement benefits when they turn 62. Claiming benefits at 62, or any time before full retirement age, is considered an early claim. Early claims result in early filing penalties, which reduce monthly benefits. These penalties apply for every single month benefits are claimed prior to FRA. Full retirement age is determined based on birth year. It's gradually been moving later thanks to amendments made to Social Security in 1983.

Because FRA has been shifting later and later for newly eligible beneficiaries, each new group who has turned 62 in recent years will be forced to wait a little longer to start Social Security checks if they want their standard payment. They'll also have fewer opportunities to earn delayed retirement credits, which can be earned until 70 for each month you delay claiming benefits after FRA.

But this won't continue forever. In fact, everyone who turns 62 in 2022 or beyond will have the same FRA.

How does this impact new retirees?

To understand the impact of the changes to full retirement age -- and to see why it matters that these changes will no longer affect newly eligible beneficiaries -- it's helpful to take a look at some examples.

The table below shows exactly when FRA is based on birth year.

BIRTH YEAR	FULL RETIREMENT AGE
1943 - 1954	66
1955	66 & 2 Months
1956	66 & 4 Months
1957	66 & 6 Months
1958	66 & 8 Months
1959	66 & 10 Months
60 & Later	67

So for anyone who turns 62 in 2022 or beyond, full retirement age will be 67. These seniors must wait until then to avoid early filing penalties. By contrast, those who turned 62 last year could get their standard benefit at 66 and 10 months, while those who hit this milestone in 2020 were able to claim at 66 and 8 months and not face penalties.

Now, there's a chance Congress could make further modifications to Social Security and shift FRA even later for future retirees. But unless that happens, anyone who who first becomes eligible for Social Security retirement benefits this year or in the future will no longer need to delay the start of their Social Security checks longer than their older peers just to get the full benefits they earned over their lifetime of work.

*Don't simply retire from something.
have something to retire to.*

Harry Emerson Fosdick



Don't Let These 3 Retirement Surprises Ruin Your Senior Years

Surprises can be a good thing, but sometimes they're not. Here's how to get ahead of potentially damaging ones.

Sometimes, surprises in life can be pleasant, like if a friend sends you flowers on your birthday or a rainy day forecast turns sunny. But other surprises aren't as fun -- namely, some of the financial ones you might encounter during retirement. Here are three to keep on your radar so your finances aren't thrown off-course.

1 A lower Social Security benefit than expected

Many people go into retirement assuming that Social Security will provide enough income to cover most, if not all, of their expenses. In reality, the average senior this year collects a mere \$1,543 a month.

Rather than rely too heavily on Social Security, work on boosting your personal savings so you have income on hand to supplement those benefits. If you have access to a 401(k) plan at work, it pays to sign up, especially if you're eligible for any type of employer match. And if you don't have a 401(k), fear not -- you can build a nice nest egg for yourself in an IRA instead.

It also helps to get an estimate of your monthly Social Security benefit ahead of retirement so you know what number to expect. You can access that information in your annual earnings statements, which you can get a hold of by setting up a Social Security account.

2 A property tax hike

Many seniors enter retirement owning their homes outright. But even if you manage to shake your mortgage payments in time for retirement, your housing costs could still eat up a lot of your income. That's because property taxes have a tendency to rise over time -- even during periods when home values fall.

SOURCE: *The Motley Fool*

A good way to protect yourself against increasing property taxes is to pad your savings. Depending on where you live and the value of your home, you may have a year when your property tax increase well outpaces the raise you get from Social Security, so the more money you have in savings, the more peace of mind you'll buy yourself.

3 Services Medicare won't cover

Many seniors are shocked to discover that Medicare won't cover all of their health-related needs. If you stick to original Medicare, you'll be responsible to cover the cost of dental care, eye exams, and hearing aids if you come to need them. And while Medicare Advantage, an alternative to original Medicare, will generally pick up the tab for these costs, you may find that an Advantage plan is too limiting for you.

The solution? If you're eligible to put money into a health savings account, or HSA, do your best to max one out while you can. That way, you'll have money set aside for future healthcare expenses so that when Medicare falls short, you won't be left in the lurch.

Now one thing you should know is that you can only put money into an HSA if you're enrolled in a high-deductible health insurance plan, the definition of which changes on an annual basis. But it pays to see if you're eligible, because like 401(k)s and IRAs, HSA offer a world of tax benefits.

Surprises can keep life interesting, but the above surprises could wreck your retirement and cause you a world of undue stress at a time in your life when you deserve better. Now that you know to look out for these pitfalls, you can take steps to prevent them from ruining your senior years.

**"But as for you,
be strong and do
not give up, for
your work will be
rewarded."**

2 Chronicles 15:7



TSP Returns Dropping: Stock Market Enters Correction Territory

The year 2021 marked high TSP returns and a great year for investors. The C Fund provided Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) investors with a return of 28.68% in 2021. 2021 was the third consecutive year of significant positive returns for the C Fund. In 2020, the C Fund had a return of 18.31%. And, in 2019, it provided a return of 31.45%.

Investors in the C Fund were not the only TSP investors coming out ahead in the past year. The S Fund had a return of 12.45% and the I Fund had a return of 11.45%.

While that is great news, stocks do not always go up. So far in 2022, they are going down. On the morning of January 24th, stocks went into correction territory. A correction means a drop of at least 10% from a recent high.

A decline in stock prices on the last day of March 2020 finished the worst quarter for the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) since 1987.

For those who were not investing in 1987, between October 14 and October 19, 1987, major stock market indices dropped 30 percent or more. On October 19, 1987, a date that is now known as “Black Monday,” the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 508 points, losing 22.6% of its total value.

The C Fund lost 19.65% in the first quarter and was down 12.4% in March 2020. The distinction for the biggest declines for the month or the quarter went to the S Fund. That fund lost 21.4% in March 2020 and was down 28.14% at the end of the first quarter of the year.

Stock Returns So Far Do Not Match Start of Pandemic

As of the close of the stock market on Friday, January 22nd, all of the TSP stock funds, as well as the lifecycle funds, were showing losses for the year. The S&P 500 (the index fund on which the TSP’s C Fund is based) has gone down in three consecutive weeks. And, on Monday, the S&P 500 dropped another 2.4% in the morning which sent it (and the C Fund) into correction territory.

Source: fedsmith.com (Ralph R. Smith.)

Here are how the TSP Funds are faring as of the stock market’s closing bell on January 21, 2022:

Fund	Share Price	Year To Date
G Fund	\$16.7517	0.09%
F Fund	\$20.5326	-1.70%
C Fund	\$66.4328	-7.66%
S Fund	\$73.0036	-12.51%
I Fund	\$38.2607	-2.99%
L Income	\$23.1038	-1.62%
L 2025	\$11.8829	-2.98%
L 2030	\$41.7659	-4.15%
L 2035	\$12.5242	-4.56%
L 2040	\$47.3239	-4.97%
L 2045	\$12.9434	-5.33%
L 2050	\$28.3195	-5.68%
L 2055	\$13.8821	-6.72%
L 2060	\$13.8819	-6.72%
L 2065	\$13.8818	-6.72%

Source: TSPDataCenter.com

In effect, every TSP Fund is down with the exception of the G Fund which so far has gone up 0.09% in January.

Investors will not know until February 1st, 2022 how the stock market will perform in January. Back in March 2020, the C Fund declined 12.40% and the S Fund went down 21.40% in that month. So far in January 2022, the fall in prices is not as dramatic, but economic and world events look rather bleak at the moment and may lead to more dramatic price declines.



What is Driving Market Direction

The biggest single factor driving bond yields higher and stock prices lower is the expectation that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates multiple times in 2022. Inflation is going up at its fastest pace in 40 years. The Federal Reserve is likely to raise interest rates to try and dampen the soaring inflation rate.

World events often play a role in stock market prices

That is proving to be the case so far in 2022. With a large build-up of Russian troops on the border of Ukraine, the possible invasion of Ukraine is undoubtedly having a negative impact on stock prices. The State Department has told families of U.S. diplomats in Ukraine to leave the country, and the White House is considering sending several thousand military personnel to Europe to counter the Russian threat.

Interfund TSP Transfers and Timing the Market

In December, TSP investors moved more than \$1.9 billion out of the S Fund. More than \$1.16 billion went into the G Fund and \$453 million into the C Fund. Another \$400 million went into the I Fund. The TSP now holds almost \$812 billion in assets.

Many investors have not lived through a bear market (defined as a 20% drop in stock prices). Stock investors have enjoyed a time of rising stock prices for a few years. We know from past experience how many will react should prices go down significantly.

When the stock market drops fast, TSP investors (as well as other stock investors) often bail out before their losses become more dramatic. For example, in March 2020, TSP investors transferred more than \$15 billion into the G Fund. How much of this \$15 billion was transferred into the G Fund before and after March 23rd, we do not know. Based on past history of how investors reacted to significant stock downturns, it is likely that a significant portion of that \$15 billion was transferred around March 23rd.

The same reaction was evident during a bull market in 2000. TSP investors flocked to the TSP stock funds in late 1999 and 2000. When TSP participants got their December 2000 statements, many realized for the first

time what was happening to the value of their stock investments. Billions of dollars were withdrawn from the stock funds. The timing of these investors was as bad as it could be. Some investors sold their stock funds at the lowest levels shortly before the C fund jumped up 29% in 2003 (the I fund went up 38% and the S fund went up 43% in 2003).



Those that pulled their money out of the stock market when the market dropped quickly as a reaction to the COVID pandemic drove stock prices down may have regretted their actions later. Despite the rapid drop in stock prices earlier in the year, the C Fund finished up 18.31% in 2020 and the S Fund went up 31.85% as the stock market recovered quickly.

Not all down markets end this fast. When prices drop dramatically, it can take months or years to recover. Timing the market to try and sell when prices are high and buy when prices are low is very difficult and requires considerable luck and well as knowledge of the stock market. Most investors who try to time the market end up losing money.

Should the current market correction drag on for a while while the impact of inflation and unsettling world events unfold, we know from past experience many TSP investors will lose money by buying stocks at high prices and selling at low prices as their patience wears thin.

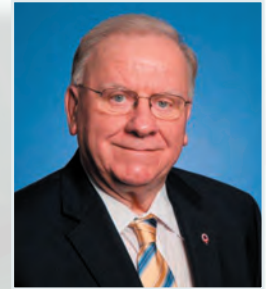
No one knows if the current drop in stock prices is a blip that will be quickly forgotten or the start of a more long-lasting drop in prices. The average bear market lasts just over nine months which can seem like a very long time when waiting for the market to rebound. Having a financial plan to deal with the emotions that can accompany a significant market drop is a good approach. Coming up with a plan in the midst of watching prices drop is likely to lead to panic selling and financial losses.

SOURCE: fedsmith.com (Ralph R. Smith.)

How Much Longer Do You Have Left

The most asked question between postal employee's is, "How much longer do you have left?" The day you are eligible to retire is coming closer every day whether it is next year or ten or twenty years away.

Most all postal employees participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) where you can safely grow your money for retirement and receive matching funds from the Postal Service. It is good to see that most NAPS members are astute in how they manage their assets in TSP. But sadly, most aren't really thinking about the long game and what to do with these funds when they finally retire.



Jay Killackey, FRCSM
Dillard Financial Solutions

That's where Dillard Financial Solutions can be your partner for retirement planning. We have programs that continue to grow your money during retirement—when—you stop TSP contributions, and no longer receive matching funds from the Post Office.

Dillard Financial Solutions provides many complimentary services; including calculating your retirement and social security benefits, and showing you products that provide guaranteed growth of your TSP funds, without fees or commissions.

You're never too young, or too old, to benefit from a complimentary consultation with one of our licensed Federal Retirement Consultants. Remember, as a NAPS member, you are eligible to receive educational assistance from Dillard Financial Solutions. We encourage you to take advantage of this benefit.

Help Farmer "T" Find Her Garden Tools



SCATTERED THROUGHOUT
THIS NEWSLETTER

EMAIL YOUR ANSWER TO
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Email submissions are entered
for a one-time grand prize drawing.

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

Wellness Tips

Spring Cleaning

1. Test and/or replace smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. Aid in purifying the air in your home by changing filters in furnaces.
3. Use proper lifting techniques, as well as, caution with ladders, and wet floors to prevent injury.
4. Review/update your family emergency plan as well as your home and car emergency kits.
5. Clear out the medicine cabinet and properly dispose of expired medicine.

Spring Is Here & Retirement Is On The Horizon

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter! As we begin to crawl out of this pandemic, we're feeling anxious to get back to the new normal. Being shut in the house for the past two years has changed our focus on life. Now more than ever, we're ready to get back to our daily rituals such as working our gardens, lawns, and other household chores. Going back into restaurants, movie theaters, and taking day trips. Going on vacation is at the top of some of our lists whether its in conjunction with anniversary's or just a girls or boys trip, it doesn't matter. So long as we get away from the house, if only for a brief time.

Over the past two years, I've spoken to several people who did not have a solid retirement income plan. The pandemic was monetarily harmful for some. Several lost jobs which made their financial portfolio suffer substantially. Others borrowed from their lifetime savings not knowing if they would ever be able to pay it back or even retire at their planned retirement date. If you're like me; you took some time to re-evaluate your life, and thought about things like never before.

When I entered retirement, there was not nearly as many options to set yourself up for a good financial lifestyle prior to retirement. I encourage you to educate yourself before it is too late. Did you know that there has been a significant change in TSP for 2022? For me, my family comes first, and I want to make sure that if something dire happens to me, they'll be able to live comfortably without me. Will my spouse, children, and grandchildren be taken care of? Did I make proper preparation for their future when I had the chance? If your answer is no, and you are still working, it is not too late.

Let Dillard Financial Solutions, Inc. educate you on options available to you as a federal employee our programs assure your family the satisfaction and security needed for the future. We have tools that give you the security you need to get you to where you'd would like to be. Most importantly, there's no cost to you! We have a solution for every situation or category you fall into. Do not ignore the signs and wait until it's too late.



John Geter, FRCSM
Dillard Financial Solutions

Each day we live is a gift from God, so make the best of it by planning for your future and that of your family. Dillard Financial Solutions can help. Call us at (803) 499-6623 and allow us the opportunity to make a financial plan that secures your future now and throughout retirement. In the meantime, have a happy spring and summer. We hope to catch up with you during our 2022 travels.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, IT IS WISE TO HAVE AT LEAST 2 MONTHS OF CASH ON HAND, AT HOME - NOT WITHIN A BANK.





Shielding Your TSP From Events You Can't Control

Hello from San Antonio, Texas. It is nice to be back in my hometown making memories with the grandchildren. But Candy and I do miss the home office team and the Sumter community.

Before I begin, I just want to say, as a retired Air Force medic, continue to practice safe protocols especially if you are around family or friends with health issues.

Now, I would like to start my article by stating that over the last 2 months, the value of my TSP account has decreased by over \$7,000. Since I am retired, I do not have the ability to make monthly contributions anymore to help restore what I lost. Why did this happen? It is because in the last 2 months, the TSP has experienced its biggest losses in 2 years. What you should take away from this statistic is that if the TSP is not performing well, that means the stock market is not performing well. Let's take a look at 2 factors that can impact the stock market.

First factor is inflation. I read an article from *Marketwatch.com* that stated inflation has increased 7% in 2021 from the previous year. That is the largest 1-year increase in 40 years for the United States. How does inflation impact you and me? It causes things we buy on regular basis to be more expensive than a year ago. A great inflation example for me is the recent increases in gas prices. Yesterday, I filled up Mrs. Candy's car and the cost was close to \$48, when last year, I could fill up her car for around \$35.

Inflation can impact the stock market, because for companies, inflation increases the cost to purchase materials that increases the cost of production which results in less profits. If there are less profits, the value of stocks can decrease causing the stock market and our TSP accounts to decrease in value.

Another factor that can impact the stock market is world events. Right now, Russia's invasion on the Ukraine is a significant world event. An event like this can affect exchange rates in foreign countries. American companies that rely on international trade, production or resources can be impacted by this military action and thus reduce their stock value. Uncertainty about how long this military conflict will last may make other companies hesitant to do much activity in the stock market. It is these factors that may cause the stock market and our TSP accounts to decrease in value.

So if you are like me and are concerned because you are in the midst of preparing to retire or have retired and your seeing TSP account decreasing in value and are not sure what to do, this would be a great time to speak to a Federal Benefit Consultant. This may be a great time for you to consider an Outside IRA that provides downside protection. This means, that when the stock market is free-falling, the outside IRA does not decrease in value. Additionally, you may want to consider moving your funds inside your TSP to G-Fund.

I would love to spend an hour listening to you about your goals, answering your questions and building you a plan to shield your hard-earned TSP investments from situations you cannot control such as inflation or world-events.



Johnny Grassi, FRCSM
Dillard Financial Solutions

Don't Forget

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Tax Deadline



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THE HISTORY OF EASTER

SOURCE: www.christianity.com

According to dictionary.com, Easter is “an annual Christian festival in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, as calculated according to tables based in Western churches on the Gregorian calendar and in Orthodox churches on the Julian calendar. Also called Easter Sunday, the day on which this festival is celebrated.”

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia gives the biblical references of “Easter” stating,

“The word does not properly occur in Scripture, although the King James Version has it in Acts 12:4 where it stands for Passover, as it is rightly rendered in the Revised Version (British and American). There is no trace of Easter celebration in the New Testament, though some would see an intimation of it in 1 Corinthians 5:7. The Jewish Christians in the early church continued to celebrate the Passover, regarding Christ

as the true paschal lamb, and this naturally passed over into a commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Lord or an Easter feast.”

THE ETYMOLOGY AND ORIGIN OF EASTER

The name “Easter” was derived from “Eostre,” “originally a Saxon word (Eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honor of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover.”

Another probability is the Norse *eastur*, *eastur*, or *ostara*, which meant “the season of the growing sun” or “the season of new birth.” The word *east* comes from the same roots. In this case, *easter* would be linked to the changing of the season.

A more recent and complex explanation comes from the Christian background of Easter rather than the pagan. The early Latin name for the week of Easter was *hebdomada alba* or “white week,” while the Sunday after Easter day was called *Dominica in albis* from the white robes

of those who had been newly baptized. The word *alba* is Latin both for white and dawn. People speaking Old High German made a mistake in their translation and used a plural word for dawn, *ostarun*, instead of a plural for white. From *ostarun* we get the German *Ostern* and the English *Easter*.

CHRISTIAN MEANING OF EASTER

The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ’s triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead, if He had simply died and not been resurrected, He would have been thought just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had overcome death once and for all.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Certainly, without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group which the Gospel of John depicts being in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ (John 20:19). Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): "...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as not only the prophesied Messiah of Israel but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

PAGAN ORIGIN OF "EASTER"

Nevertheless, Easter did not always signify Christ's resurrection from the dead and the purpose of Easter was considerably different than what Christians observe today. The feast day of Easter was first a pagan holiday of renewal and rebirth. Honored in the early

spring, it praised the pagan Saxon goddess Eostre. When early Christian missionaries saved the Saxons to Christianity, the spring holiday, because it occurred near the same season as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, was joined with the pagan festival, and became known as Easter. The meaning of Easter was also changed to honor its new Christian significance.

EASTER BUNNY'S CONNECTION TO CHRISTIANITY

The origin of the Easter Bunny can be dated back to the 13th century in Germany. The Germanic folk, known as the Teutons, worshiped pagan gods and goddesses. One such goddess was Eostra (otherwise known as Ostara or Ēostre). She was revered as the goddess of fertility and spring. The word "Easter" finds its etymology from the goddess's name.

Due to its prolific breeding tendencies, the rabbit became a symbol for Eostra. In AD 595, Pope Gregory sent Roman monks to convert the Anglo Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons, like German forefathers, celebrated Eostra. When converted, they accepted the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection at Easter while still continuing the celebration of spring renewal and the rabbit's symbolism.

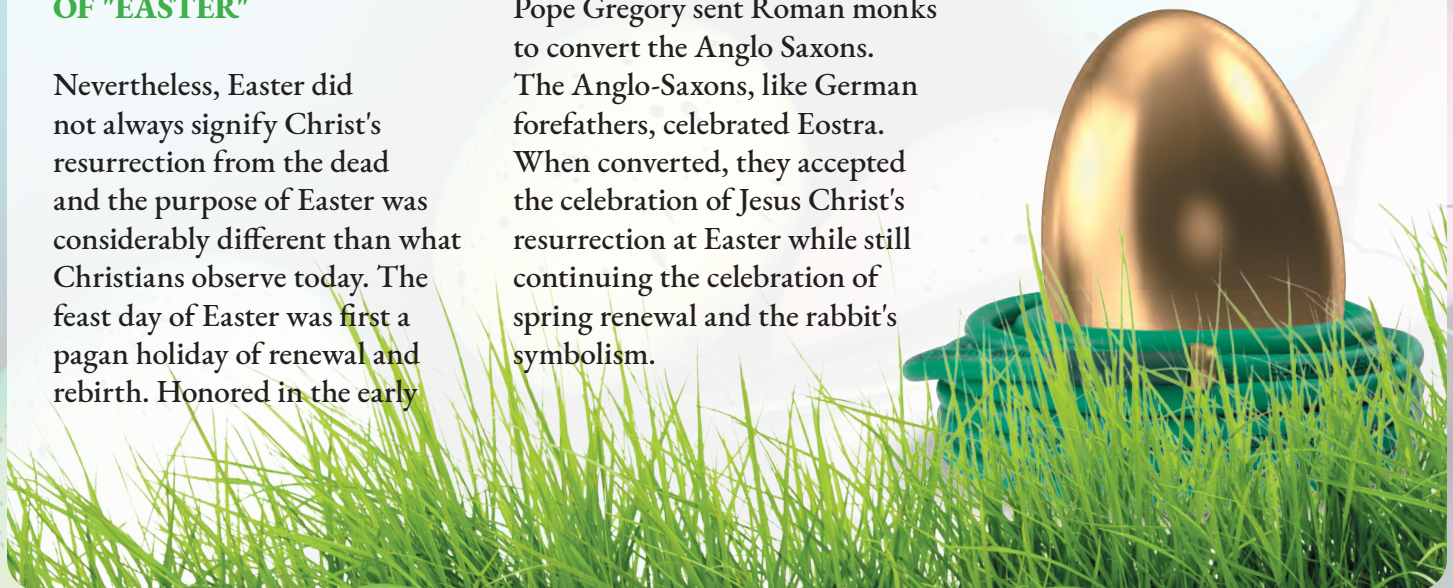
EASTER MEANING TODAY

For Christians worldwide, the importance of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious assurances of eternal life for all who believe in Him. While there are plenty of non-religious traditions such as the easter bunny, baskets of candy, and Easter egg hunts, there are also meaningful traditions for Christians today.

Some include:

Sunrise services - many churches meet at a special sunrise service time to celebrate the risen savior
Resurrection rolls - these are a cute way to teach children about the empty tomb of Jesus. Resurrection rolls are baked with a large marshmallow inside that disappears while baking, symbolizing the empty tomb of Jesus!

Easter Lilies can be found decorating churches and homes as a reminder of the purity of Jesus' sacrifice and the new life we have through his resurrection





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