

LEGAL EASE



Kathleen Martin is an attorney with O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C., and a newspaper columnist for The Mercury, which gave permission for this article to be reprinted.

May 15, 2016

May is Older Americans Month

In 1963, President Kennedy designated May as Senior Citizens month. He encouraged all Americans to pay tribute to older people throughout our country. Since then, every sitting President has made a formal proclamation during or before the month of May. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter changed the name to Older Americans Month. May continues to be when we celebrate Americans who are 65 and older through ceremonies, events, and public recognition.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) encourages all elder law attorneys to utilize Older Americans Month to host special events to celebrate National Elder Law Month. We at OWM Law are having two events. One is a free 30 minute document review consultation to review your current Will, Living Will and Powers of Attorney. Although this event is connected with National Elder Law Month, you do not need to be older than 65 years or older to take advantage of this service. Contact Rebecca Hobbs, Esq. CELA, James Kovaleski, Esq. or Joseph Koury, Esq. to set up an appointment. Call 610-323-2800 for more information.

The second event is a free educational workshop on May 26 at 11 am or 3 pm in our Phoenixville office. The topic is "Preparing to Age at Home" where we will address the common fear of outliving your assets. Seating is limited. Send an email to sminnick@owmlaw.com or call 610-323-2800 to register.

The United States Census Bureau published some interesting facts for Older Americans Month, May, 2016. For instance, the number of people who were 65 years old and older in the U.S. on July 1, 2014 is 46.2 million. The projection is that by 2033, for the first time, the population of 65 and older will outnumber people younger than 18 years in the U.S. In 2014, the estimated number of people 65 and older who were veterans of the U.S. armed forces was 9.4 million. The percentage of those 65 and older who reported living in homes with computers in 2013 was 71 percent. Fifty nine point four percent reported casting a ballot in the 2014 election. The percentage of householders 65 and older who owned homes in the fourth quarter of 2015 is 79.3%.

The number of centenarians is increasing. The 2010 census counted 53,364 people who were 100 or older. For every 100 centenarian women, the number of centenarian men is 20.7. Of the men who were 100 or older, 43.5 percent lived with others in a household whereas most women in the same age category lived in nursing homes. North Dakota was the only state in 2010 with more than three centenarians per 10,000 people.

The U.S. Census Bureau has many more interesting statistics. Find your own way to celebrate National Older Americans Month this May.