

The Index: 2014 Edition

By Tammy Flanagan

January 9, 2014

Last week, I published the Retirement Planning greatest hits of 2013, but as is my custom every year, this week I present the annual index of all of my past columns that are still relevant -- dating back to the first one, published in January 2006. My how time flies! I've incorporated several 2013 columns into the list and deleted any columns that have either been updated or are no longer accurate due to changes in the law.

I have to tell you that writing this column every week for eight years has never been a chore for me. (I've even been known to write the column from the beach while on vacation). It brings me joy when I hear from readers that my column has helped them prepare for retirement. And writing the column also has been rewarding from the standpoint of allowing me the opportunity to delve deeper into subjects that are mystifying to me or new to federal law. I'm not sure why federal retirement has to be so complicated, but the fact that it is has created a cottage industry for people like me. So thanks, Congress!

This year, I moved the topic of Retirement Processing to the top of the list, because there are a lot of new retirees entering the system. I also realize that I wrote a lot of columns last year on the subject of Deciding to Retire, so I must be hearing about that a lot from federal employees. I also wrote a fair number of columns on the Thrift Savings Plan, because this benefit is becoming a more important part of the overall retirement picture.

As always, I hope all of my columns, especially the ones highlighted below, help you become better equipped to prepare for a meaningful and comfortable life after retirement.

Retirement Processing

[Beyond the Horror Stories](#) Nov. 8, 2013

[The Great Claims Processing Pileup](#) May 17, 2013

[About That Backlog](#) April 19, 2013

[A New Retiree's To-Do List](#) Feb. 1, 2013

[Are You Ready to Apply?](#) Nov. 1, 2012

[Benefits Roundup](#) June 8, 2012

[Reductions and Withholdings](#) Jan. 13, 2012

[Great Expectations](#) Dec. 16, 2011

[Diminishing Returns](#) Aug. 19, 2011

[Smooth Sailing](#) Aug. 12, 2011

[Trick or Treat](#) Oct. 29, 2010

[The Check Isn't in the Mail](#) Jan. 30, 2009

[Delayed Gratification](#) April 4, 2008

[Buyer Beware](#) Jan. 25, 2008

[A Thoroughly Modern Retirement System](#) June 2, 2006

Post-Retirement

[The Incredible Shrinking COLA](#) Nov. 1, 2013

[Who's Getting What?](#) Oct. 5, 2012

[Pay Raises and COLAs](#) Aug. 3, 2012

[Phased Retirement Q & A](#) Aug. 10, 2012

[Retired – and Working](#) July 20, 2012

[Processing Problems](#) Feb. 10, 2012

[Refreshing COLA](#) Oct. 14, 2011

[Coming Back](#) Sept. 30, 2011

[Words of Wisdom](#) May 15, 2008

[Delayed Gratification](#) April 4, 2008

[Back to Work, Again](#) March 30, 2007

[Back to Work](#) March 23, 2007

New Employees and Midcareer Level Employees

[Financial Focus in a Time of Uncertainty](#) Oct. 11, 2013

[Retirement 101: Start Planning Now](#) Sept. 20, 2013

[Midcareer Checklist](#) July 12, 2013

[Get Started](#) Sept. 7, 2012

[Eight Tips for Setting Your Retirement Goals](#) Sept. 14, 2012

[Buyout Considerations](#) July 12, 2012

[Happy Financial Literacy Month](#) April 13, 2012

[Targeting Early Retirement](#) Oct. 21, 2011

[Go or No Go](#) Sept. 16, 2011

[Early Outs](#) July 29, 2011

[Midterm Quiz](#) June 17, 2011

[The List](#) June 4, 2010

[The Top Five](#) April 16, 2010

[Financial Literacy for Feds](#) April 9, 2010

[Where to Start](#) Oct. 23, 2009

[Communication Mistakes](#) Aug. 28, 2009

[From Day One](#) July 24, 2009

[The Early Way Out](#) May 26, 2006

[Midcareer Considerations](#) May 1, 2009

[Leaving Early](#) May 19, 2006

[Really, You Can Retire!](#) March 17, 2006

[You Can Afford To Retire!](#) March 3, 2006

Best Dates to Retire

[Best Dates to Retire 2014](#) May 2, 2013

[Picking the Very Best Date to Retire](#) May 9, 2013

[Best Date to Retire Tips](#) March 9, 2012

Deciding to Retire

[What is Your Full Retirement Age?](#) Nov. 14, 2013

[7 Signs You're Not Ready to Retire](#) Oct. 18, 2013

[Baby Boomers and Retirement](#) Aug. 23, 2013

[You Can Afford To Retire! \(2013 Edition\)](#) July 26, 2013

[Let The Confusion Begin!](#) June 7, 2013

[Phased Retirement: The Bottom Line](#) June 14, 2013

[How Much Money Do You Need to Retire?](#) June 28, 2013

[Pre-Retirement To-Do List](#) April 26, 2013

[Retirement Resources](#) March 1, 2013

[Cliff Divers, Worker Bees and Retirees in Training](#) March 8, 2013

[Smooth Sailing](#) Aug. 12, 2011

[Waiting Game](#) May 27, 2011

[Ready...or Not?](#) May 20, 2011

[The Next Adventure](#) Aug. 20, 2010

[Taking the Plunge](#) Aug. 7, 2009

[When to Go: FERS Edition](#) April 24, 2009

[Putting It Off](#) April 17, 2009

[Federal vs. Private](#) May 9, 2008

[A Little Lower](#) Oct. 12, 2007

[Going Private](#) Oct. 5, 2007

[Public or Private?](#) Sept. 14, 2007

[Retiring Women](#) June 15, 2007

[Should I Stay, or Should I Go?](#) Feb. 23, 2007

Congressional Proposals and Action

[Spared From Pension Hikes](#) Dec. 13, 2013

[A Look Back](#) Dec. 21, 2012

[What's New: Pension Hikes, Tepid TSP and More](#) Nov. 9, 2012

[Pay Raises and COLAs](#) Aug. 3, 2012

[Changes for the Better](#) July 27, 2012

[TSP, Pensions and More](#) May 4, 2012

[Cutting Benefits: Readers Bite Back](#) April 1, 2011

[Are Cuts Coming?](#) March 25, 2011

[Uncertain Times](#) Sept. 22, 2011

[Uncertain Times](#) May 28, 2010

[What Congress Gets](#) July 8, 2011

[From Law to Policy](#) July 31, 2009

Things to Do to Get Ready

[Back to Basics](#) Sept. 28, 2012

[Free Estimates](#) Aug. 31, 2012

[Five Retirement Tips](#) April 27, 2012

[The Sites You Need](#) March 23, 2012

[Not Quite Right](#) Sept. 9, 2011

[Predicting the Future](#) Sept. 2, 2011

[Overwhelmed](#) Aug. 26, 2011

[Retirement Checkup](#) April 29, 2011

[Be Prepared](#) Jan. 21, 2011

[Getting Help](#) Sept. 24, 2010

[Get an Estimate](#) July 17, 2009

[It Pays to Know](#) Jan. 23, 2009

[What You Need to Know](#) Oct. 10, 2008

[Who's Responsible?](#) Sept. 12, 2008

[Time of Transition](#) June 27, 2008

[To-Do List](#) June 13, 2008

[Countdown to Retirement](#) March 14, 2008

[Help!](#) Feb. 8, 2008

[Educate Yourself](#) Feb. 1, 2008

[Last-Minute Tips](#) Dec. 14, 2007

[The Retirement Process](#) June 22, 2007

[Retirement Checklist](#) June 8, 2007

[Getting Ready](#) Jan. 5, 2007

[Are You Ready?](#) July 14, 2006

[Smoothing the Transition](#) June 23, 2006

Sick Leave/Annual Leave

[Need Money? Save Your Sick Leave](#) July 6, 2012

[Sick Leave Credit: The Calculations](#) April 2, 2010

[Sick Leave Credit: The Details](#) March 26, 2010

[Sick Leave Credit for All](#) March 19, 2010

[Leave: Take It or Lump It](#) March 27, 2009

[Taking Your Lumps](#) Jan. 19, 2007

Service Credit Issues: Civilian

[The Mystery of the Vanishing Service Credit](#) Aug. 2, 2013

[What You Need to Know During a Furlough](#) Feb. 22, 2013

[Redeposits for the Rehired](#) Feb. 25, 2011

[Civilian Payback](#) Feb. 18, 2011

[Where Credit is Due](#) Jan. 28, 2011

[Refunds and Redeposits](#) Jan. 14, 2011

[At Your Service](#) Aug. 13, 2010

[Question Time](#) Feb. 12, 2010

[Deposit Woes](#) Jan. 29, 2010

[Deposit Dilemma](#) Jan. 22, 2010

[Deposit Download](#) Jan. 15, 2010

[Maxing Out](#) July 18, 2008

[Deposits and Credits](#) June 20, 2008

[Keep Your Records](#) Feb. 28, 2008

[Catch-62](#) Sept. 21, 2007

[A Whole Different Kind of Service](#) June 1, 2007

[Crediting Volunteer Service](#) May 25, 2007

[Computing Your Service](#) May 18, 2007

Service Credit Issues: Military

[11.11.11 Edition](#) Nov. 11, 2011

[Credit for Military Service](#) Feb. 11, 2011

[From Military to Civilian](#) July 30, 2010

[Question Time](#) Feb. 12, 2010

[Deposit Woes](#) Jan. 29, 2010

[Deposit Dilemma](#) Jan. 22, 2010

[Deposit Download](#) Jan. 15, 2010

[Military Payback: More Questions](#) June 12, 2009

[Payback Time](#) May 29, 2009

[Catch-62 Revisited](#) Sept. 5, 2008

[Deposits and Credits](#) June 20, 2008

[Catch-62](#) Sept. 21, 2007

[Computing Your Service](#) May 18, 2007

[Service Interruption](#) March 16, 2007

[Mixing Civilian and Military Retirement](#) June 30, 2006

[Military Service Payback](#) Feb. 24, 2006

Survivor Benefits

[Preparing in Advance](#) March 29, 2013

[Give the Gift of Cash](#) Feb. 15, 2013

[Goin' to the Chapel](#) June 1, 2012

[Safety Net](#) July 22, 2011

[Summer Assignment](#) July 15, 2011

[For Richer or Poorer, Final Words](#) March 18, 2011

[For Richer or Poorer, Part Two](#) March 11, 2011

[For Richer, For Poorer](#) March 4, 2011

[Thinking the Unthinkable](#) June 11, 2010

[The Inevitable](#) Aug. 14, 2009

[When You Go](#) June 5, 2009

[Spousal Provision](#) March 13, 2009

[Survivor Benefits Q&A](#) April 25, 2008

[Supporting Your Survivors](#) April 18, 2008

[Survivor: Federal Edition](#) Jan. 12, 2007

[Federal Couples](#) July 7, 2006

[Who's Your Beneficiary?](#) May 12, 2006

[Spousal Benefits](#) March 10, 2006

Law Enforcement and Special Groups

[Targeting Early Retirement](#) Oct. 21, 2011

[Officers' Options](#) July 1, 2011

[Special Considerations](#) May 8, 2009

[Feeling Special: Q&A](#) Aug. 17, 2007

[Feeling Special](#) Aug. 10, 2007

Eligibility and Computation of CSRS and FERS

[More on the FERS Supplement](#) Jan. 25, 2013

[A Little Extra Under FERS](#) Jan. 18, 2013

[How Much Do You Deserve?](#) May 25, 2012

[New Calculations](#) Nov. 6, 2009

[Eligibility: Facts and Myths](#) July 6, 2007

[Deferred vs. Postponed](#) June 29, 2007

[Retirement Estimate: The Details](#) May 11, 2007

[Basic Retirement Computations](#) May 4, 2007

[Estimating Your Benefits](#) April 27, 2007

[Supplementary Information](#) Feb. 2, 2007

[Supplementing FERS](#) Jan. 26, 2007

Other CSRS and FERS Issues

[How Does Your Retirement Stack Up Against a Former President's?](#) Aug. 30, 2013

[Benefits and Same-Sex Marriage](#) July 5, 2013

[10 Things You Probably Don't Know About Federal Retirement](#) July 19, 2013

[Women's Issues](#) Oct. 12, 2012

[Summertime Q & A](#) Aug. 17, 2012

[Rates and Returns](#) May 18, 2012

[Divorce Decrees](#) April 6, 2012

[A Few Good Things](#) Dec. 23, 2011

[Pocket Change](#) April 8, 2011

[Pop Quiz](#) Sept. 10, 2010

[Before Your Time](#) July 23, 2010

[Spring Cleaning](#) May 21, 2010

[Financially Independent Women](#) May 14, 2010

[Question Time](#) May 7, 2010

[The 2009 Quiz](#) Dec. 18, 2009

[Pop Quiz](#) Sept. 11, 2009

[Endless Summer, Endless Questions](#) June 26, 2009

[No Fooling](#) April 3, 2009

[What You Don't Know](#) Feb. 27, 2009

[Questions and Answers](#) Feb. 20, 2009

[Myth Busting](#) May 30, 2008

[D-I-V-O-R-C-E](#) Aug. 24, 2007

[Short-Term Benefits](#) Feb. 16, 2007

[Single Concerns](#) July 21, 2006

CSRS vs FERS

[CSRS vs FERS, Again](#) Dec. 14, 2012

[From CSRS to FERS](#) March 15, 2012

[Freefalling FERS](#) March 6, 2009

[FERS Flexibilities](#) Sept. 26, 2008

[CSRS vs. FERS: 2008 Edition](#) Sept. 19, 2008

CSRS Offset

[Complicating Factors](#) Oct. 7, 2011

[Understanding CSRS Offset](#) Sept. 3, 2010

[Best of Both Worlds](#) April 14, 2006

Disability Retirement

[Disability Decisions](#) Nov. 19, 2010

[Disability Decisions](#) March 20, 2009

[Facing Disability](#) Feb. 22, 2008

Voluntary Contributions

[Your Own Retirement Savings Plan](#) Aug. 9, 2013

[A Golden Opportunity](#) Oct. 15, 2010

[Voluntary Contributions Revisited](#) May 22, 2009

[Voluntary Benefits](#) May 5, 2006

Insurance (General)

[Let the Open Season Panic Begin!](#) Aug. 16, 2013

[Thinking About Insurance, Part Two](#) March 22, 2013

[Thinking About Insurance](#) Early March 15, 2013

[Why Don't You Have a Flexible Spending Account?](#) Nov. 16, 2012

[Ten Tips for Open Season](#) Nov. 18, 2011

[Dental Check-Up](#) Nov. 7, 2008

Health Insurance

[Getting Something For \(Next To\) Nothing](#) December 6, 2013

[Five Steps to Picking a New Health Plan](#) November 22, 2013

[5 Reasons to Consider Changing Your Health Plan](#) Oct. 25, 2013

[Five Open Season Tips](#) Nov. 30, 2012

[Taking the Plunge](#) Dec. 2, 2011

[So Many Choices](#) Nov. 4, 2011

[Why?](#) Dec. 10, 2010

[\(Almost\) Free Health Insurance](#) Oct. 8, 2010

[Health Reform and Your Children](#) Sept. 17, 2010

[Open Forum](#) Nov. 20, 2009

[High Option](#) Nov. 13, 2009

[The Five-Year Test](#) March 20, 2008

[Ensuring a Healthy Retirement](#) June 16, 2006

Medicare

[65 and Still Working](#) May 31, 2013

[FEHB and Medicare](#) Oct. 25, 2012

[Medicare Choices](#) Dec. 9, 2011

[Medicare Wrap-Up](#) Dec. 3, 2010

[Medicare Questions](#) Nov. 12, 2010

[Don't Forget Medicare](#) Nov. 5, 2010

[Part B, Part Three](#) Dec. 11, 2008

[Medicare, Part B](#) Dec. 4, 2008

[Medicare Mysteries](#) Nov. 21, 2008

[Part B, or Not Part B?](#) Sept. 28, 2007

[More on Medicare](#) April 28, 2006

[Medicare ABCs](#) April 21, 2006

Life Insurance

[Need Money? Rethink Life Insurance](#) June 22, 2012

[Life Insurance Options](#) Feb. 3, 2012

[Life Insurance Basics](#) Jan. 27, 2012

[Life Insurance Lessons](#) Oct. 1, 2010

[Checks and Balances](#) Aug. 6, 2010

[Your Money and Your Life](#) July 16, 2010

[Life Insurance Options, Part Two](#) Sept. 22, 2006

[Life Insurance Options, Part One](#) Sept. 15, 2006

Long-Term Care

[Long-Term Thinking](#) June 15, 2012

[Long-Term Open Season](#) Oct. 28, 2011

[Decision Time](#) June 10, 2011

[Fast Facts on Long Term Care](#) April 15, 2011

[The Poverty Line](#) March 12, 2010

[Beyond Benefits](#) March 5, 2010

[Long-Term Crunch](#) Feb. 5, 2010

[Buying Long-Term Care Insurance](#) Oct. 16, 2009

[Long-Term Care Considerations](#) Oct. 9, 2009

[Long-Term Change](#) May 15, 2009

[Long-Term Planning](#) July 25, 2008

[The Long Haul: Part Three](#) Aug. 11, 2006

[The Long Haul: Part Two](#) Aug. 4, 2006

[The Long Haul: Part One](#) July 28, 2006

Social Security

[Social Security: What's In It for You?](#) Sept. 13, 2013

[Timing Is Everything](#) Dec. 7, 2012

[Getting the Most from Social Security](#) Oct. 19, 2012

[Are You Counting on Social Security?](#) March 30, 2012

[Social Security and Spouses](#) Feb. 17, 2012

[Social Security Quiz](#) Jan. 20, 2012

[Social Security Trade-Offs](#) Aug. 5, 2011

[The Magic Number](#) Aug. 27, 2010

[Social Security 301](#) Oct. 2, 2009

[Social Security 201](#) Sept. 25, 2009

[Social Security 101](#) Sept. 18, 2009

[Social Security's Top 10](#) Aug. 21, 2009

[Understanding Social Security](#) April 10, 2009

[The Benefits of Social Security](#) June 6, 2008

[Social Issues](#) May 2, 2008

[Getting Social](#) March 7, 2008

[Gone With the Windfall](#) Sept. 1, 2006

[Offsetting Penalty](#) June 9, 2006

Thrift Savings Plan

[How Much TSP Can You Take?](#) Dec. 20, 2013

[Furloughs and Your Retirement](#) Oct. 4, 2013

[A New Tool from the TSP](#) Sept. 6, 2013

[Leave It or Roll It?](#) Sept. 26, 2013

[What To Do With Your TSP](#) June 21, 2013

[Beneficiary Beware](#) May 24, 2013

[Understanding Your TSP Options](#) April 5, 2013

[Required Payouts](#) April 12, 2013

[Talking TSP](#) Aug. 24, 2012

[Need Money? Look to the TSP](#) June 29, 2012

[The Roth Option](#) April 20, 2012

[Roth and Taxes](#) March 2, 2012

[Cashing Out From the TSP](#) Feb. 24, 2012

[Another Look at Annuities](#) June 24, 2011

[Grow Your Savings](#) April 22, 2011

[Setting the TSP Record Straight](#) July 9, 2010

[How to Become a TSP Millionaire](#) July 2, 2010

[TSP Payday](#) June 25, 2010

[Upgrading the TSP](#) June 18, 2010

[Avoiding Annuities](#) February 26, 2010

[Income for Life](#) Feb. 19, 2010

[Deep Breath](#) Oct. 17, 2008

[Take Charge of Your TSP](#) Oct. 3, 2008

[TSP and Taxes](#) May 23, 2008

[The TSP's Future -- and Yours](#) July 13, 2007

[Honey Pot](#) April 20, 2007

[TSP Withdrawal Quiz](#) April 13, 2007

[Life Expectancy vs. Life Annuity](#) April 6, 2007

[Withdrawal Options](#) March 24, 2006

Taxes

[A Tax To-Do List](#) Feb. 8, 2013

[Nine Tax Planning Tips for Retirement](#) Sept. 21, 2012

[Tax Changes: Part Two](#) Aug. 25, 2006

[Tax Changes: Part One](#) Aug. 18, 2006

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<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/retirement-planning/2014/01/index-2014-edition/76565/>