**Social Security Column**

CELEBRATE YOUR INDEPENDENCE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

**By <Name>**

**Social Security <Title> in <Place>**

****

Every July 4, we celebrate our nation’s independence. For nearly 90 years, our programs have helped create financial independence for millions of hardworking people. We have useful online resources like the *Social Security Statement* (*Statement*) and our benefits estimator tool that helps people not yet receiving benefits. The *Statement* shows the benefits that you and your family may be eligible for and provides personalized fact sheets tailored to your age and earnings situation. The benefits estimator tool allows you to get estimates based on different ages. These online tools can help you better prepare for your retirement.

**If you’re not receiving benefits**

You can get the most out of your online experience if you have a personal *my* Social Security account. You can:

* Request a replacement Social Security card.
* Get estimates for spouse’s benefits.
* Get your *Statement* instantly.
* Get proof that you do not receive benefits.
* Check your application status.

**If you’re receiving benefits**

You can use your personal *my* Social Security account to:

* Request a replacement Social Security card.
* Get an instant benefit verification letter*.*
* Start or change your direct deposit. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
* Change your address. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
* Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season.
* Opt out of mailed notices for those available online.

You can create your personal *my* Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

Our blog at [blog.ssa.gov](https://blog.ssa.gov) features news and information about our programs and services. You can subscribe and get notified each time we post a new blog so you can stay informed. From the blog, you can also connect with us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

With so many services and helpful information available online, we are here for you when you need us. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov).

# # #