

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

- 01/01/37** Workers began to acquire credits toward old-age insurance benefits.
- 01/37** First applications for benefits filed. Ernest Ackerman, a retired Cleveland motorman, was among the first to apply.
- 02/19/37** President Roosevelt accepted the resignation of John G. Winant from the Social Security Board and appointed Arthur J. Altmeyer as the new Chairman.
- 03/11/37** First Social Security benefits paid (one-time payment only).
- 07/01/39** Under the Federal Reorganization Act of 1939, the Social Security Board was made part of the newly established Federal Security Agency.
- 08/03/39** Arthur J. Altmeyer was reappointed to a six-year term as the Chairman of the Social Security Board.
- 08/10/39** The Social Security Amendments of 1939 broadened the program to include dependents' and survivors' benefits.
- 01/01/40** Monthly benefits first became payable under old-age and survivors insurance to aged retired workers and their dependents and to survivors of deceased insured workers.
- 01/31/40** Ida May Fuller became the first person to receive an old-age monthly benefit check under the new Social Security law.
- 11/19/45** In a special message to Congress, President Truman proposed a comprehensive, prepaid medical insurance plan for all people through the Social Security system.
- 07/16/46** Under the President's Reorganization Plan of 1946, the Social Security Board was abolished and the Social Security Administration was established. Arthur J. Altmeyer was appointed as the first Commissioner.
- 08/28/50** The President signed the 1950 Social Security Amendments.
- 09/01/54** Social Security Amendments established a disability "freeze" to help prevent the erosion of a disabled worker's benefits.
- 08/01/56** The Social Security Act was amended to provide monthly benefits to permanently and totally disabled workers aged 50-64 and for adult children of deceased or retired workers, if disabled before age 18.

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- 06/30/61** The Social Security Amendments of 1961 were signed by President John Kennedy, permitting all workers to elect reduced retirement at age 62.
- 07/30/65** President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Medicare bill in the presence of former President Truman who proposed this legislation in his message to Congress in 1945.
- 10/12/66** President Johnson visited the SSA's headquarters to participate in the 15th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony — the first visit by a President.
- 12/30/69** President Nixon signed the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. Monthly cash benefits were provided coal miners who became totally disabled because of black lung disease, and for their dependents and survivors.
- 07/01/72** President Nixon signed into law P.L. 92-336 which authorized a 20 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), effective 9/72, and established the procedures for issuing automatic annual COLAs beginning in 1975.
- 10/30/72** Social Security Amendments of 1972 signed into law by President Nixon — creating the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.
- 1/19/73** The Administration Building at SSA headquarters was renamed the Arthur J. Altmeyer Building, in memory of the late Commissioner.
- 01/01/74** SSI program went into operation as a result of the Social Security Amendments of 1972.
- 03/09/77** HEW reorganization plan published in *Federal Register*, creating the Health Care Financing Administration to manage the Medicare program.
- 06/09/80** President Carter signed the Social Security Amendments of 1980. Major provisions involved greater work incentives for disabled Social Security and SSI beneficiaries.
- 08/13/81** The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 made major changes in Social Security, SSI and AFDC. These included: a phasing out of student's benefits; stopping young parents benefits; stopping young parents benefits when a child reached 16; limiting the lump-sum death payment and changes in the minimum benefit.
- 01/20/83** The National Commission on Social Security Reform sent its recommendations for resolving the Social Security program's financial problems to the President and Congress.

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- 04/20/83** President Reagan signed into law the Social Security Amendments of 1983.
- 10/09/84** Disability Benefits Reform Act of 1984 signed by President Reagan. Major provisions included restoration of long-range financial soundness to the program.
- 08/14/85** Social Security celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- 06/06/86** President Reagan signed the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) Act, which establishes Social Security coverage for federal employees hired after December 31, 1983.
- 10/01/88** Nationwide 800 number service implemented.
- 02/20/90** The Supreme Court held in "Sullivan vs. Zebley" that substantial parts of the SSI regulation on determining disability for children are inconsistent with the Social Security Act.
- 05/17/94** SSA's Internet site was launched on the World Wide Web (SSA Online at <http://www.ssa.gov>).
- 03/31/95** SSA became an independent agency.
- 04/19/95** The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Okla., was bombed, killing 168 individuals, including 16 SSA employees.
- 08/22/96** President Clinton signs welfare reform bill.
- 09/28/97** Kenneth S. Apfel sworn-in as Commissioner of Social Security.
- 12/08-09/98** The first-ever White House Conference on Social Security was held in Washington, D.C.
- 10/01/99** SSA begins annual mailing of *Social Security Statement* to all workers age 25 and over.
- 11/22/99** William A. Halter was formally sworn-in as Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, and James G. Huse, Jr., was sworn-in as Inspector General of Social Security.
- 12/17/99** President Clinton signed the "Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999."
- 04/07/00** President Clinton signed into law a bill eliminating the Retirement Earnings Test (RET) for those beneficiaries at or above Normal Retirement Age.