



faith . discipline . patience



When I read this quote, I was reminded of a comedian bit I heard a few years ago that went something like—*everything is great, but everyone is miserable. “It’s hard not to be happy with the economy...we’ve got 50 year lows in unemployment, global growth has held up, the Fed has been reducing rates...things are very positive. I’m always surprised why people are surprised that the market is at an all-time high. In a global economy that is growing...the market should finish logically every single day at an all-time high. It doesn’t of course. But if you stand back 20 feet from a chart it looks like a straight line, bottom left to top right.”* James Gorman, Morgan Stanley CEO. 1/21/20



You know I am an unshakable, wild-eyed optimist about America and the stock market long-term.....but a few early year barometers are signaling trouble this year!! Going back to 1950, when the S&P 500 was positive in January, 86% of the time, the full year turned out up. As they say, *“So goes January, so goes the year.”* The track record is even better in presidential election years. When January is up in an election year, the year is up 100% of the time, according to Bank of America. So, what was the final score for January? The Index was down a tiny bit....0.2%. Oh! So! Close! Darn you coronavirus! So, strike one. The Kansas City Chiefs won the big game, which according to another “Indicator”, this a bad sign for our bull market—an AFC team winning often foretells of a decline....strike two?! I’ll start stocking the bunker! Of course, I am pretty sure these “indicators” are coincidence, not science, and should be taken with a grain of salt. (might also be good to put salt in the bunker—those MREs can be dry) Take heart, there is another “January barometer” that focuses on the first 5 trading days of the year---and S&P was up the first week this year....phew! Perhaps we will avoid Armageddon after all. ☺



Sooooooo Valentine’s didn’t go well....again.....keep in mind.... In order to qualify for a divorce-spouse benefit a person must have been married 10 years, currently unmarried and be at least 62. **Unmarried/10/62.** The number 1 misconception is divorced individuals think they’ll get more than one benefit---no, you get ½ of their benefit or all of yours. Whichever is higher. By the way, multiple people—up to 4—are eligible to claim on one worker’s record. Johnny Carson famously had three divorces, and a fourth wife. Divorce/survival

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benefits for everybody!!!? *“The surviving spouse got his benefit, wives one and three also got survivor ex-spouse benefits,” Jane Wollman Rusoff, What Divorced Woman Should Know. What about #2? They were only married 9 years!?! Oh! So! Close!*



Don't forget I have my **Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™** credential.....keep this in mind in case someone you care about is going thru a divorce and could use some financial coaching, and/or encouragement.

As always, I'm honored and humbled you have given us the opportunity to serve as your financial advisor. We endeavor to *“treat our clients as family. To provide genuine caring service to every client, every day”* MHK

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