



ED SLOTT'S IRA ADVISOR

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Tax & Estate Planning For Your Retirement Savings

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“When a thing is done, it's done. Don't look back. Look forward to your next objective.”

– General George C. Marshall, (1880-1959)

Normally the quote above is good advice to keep focused on the future, but there are some things that actually can be undone. One of them is a Roth IRA conversion, but there is a deadline.

If you converted to a Roth IRA at anytime during 2002, you have until October 15, 2003 to un-do (recharacterize) that conversion. Time is running out though so act quickly if you wish to take advantage of this rare tax code provision that allows you a second chance.

This month's feature article *“Last Chance to Undo Your 2002 Roth Conversion”* steers you through the Roth recharacterization. October 15, 2003 is

also the last possible date to avoid a 6% excess IRA contribution penalty by removing the 2002 excess contribution (along with any income on the excess contribution).

If you are, or will be looking for financial aid to help pay for college, your IRA could play a key role. That's the focus of this month's guest IRA expert column *“IRA Strategies to Maximize College Financial Aid”* by Thomas P. Brooks, President of College Funding Advisors, Inc., in Bedford, Massachusetts.

If you converted to a Roth IRA at anytime during 2002, you have until October 15, 2003 to un-do (recharacterize) that conversion.

If you named a trust as your IRA beneficiary, you may have yet additional hurdles to deal with in order for your trust to qualify as a look-through trust. If it doesn't, your IRA will not have a designated beneficiary and the stretch will be lost. See *“IRA Trust Update”* on pages 4-5 to find out how IRS will rule on your trust.

It may have to be revised or re-done.

For more IRA information, visit our website at www.ira-help.com

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Thomas P. Brooks, President, College Funding Advisors, Inc.

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