

10-3-2012

Your Honor, I wanted to write this letter. Because, this is a way I can voice my story, as a U.M.W.A. member. I live in Clay, Ky. A small town in Western Ky. I worked for Peabody Coal, for 35 years. I was planning to work longer. Until, my Health became a Problem. After having, a Heart attack. A large tumor, removed, from my left lung and was attached to some Nerve, going into my spine. The Tumor was successfully removed. But left, me with problems, I deal with everyday. I also have Block lungy disease. This causes me, to have Chronic Bronchitis. I also have diabetes and degenerative Arthritis, in my spine, Right Shoulder and Right Ankle. I also have a bad Right Knee and a Right Hand that has the Endo Surgery, Middle joint that was, severely damaged from a work related injury.

My wife, also has Health issues. As I write this letter to you. I am a 3rd generation. U.M.W.A. Miner. My Grandfather and Father, who also was a WWII Combat Soldier, were U.M.W.A. members. So you can see. I was raised, in the Coal Mining region of Western Ky. I know there is a lot of my Union Brothers and Sisters, have similar stories. Being disabled, has changed our lives. In so many ways. Our benefits that we receive, is so important. For us, to have a little quality of life. My Prayer and hopes are that, we as United Mine Workers can keep our benefits. That have been promised to us. Thank you and may God Bless us all.

Sincerely,
Jerry W. Clark
Local 1793
District 12
U.M.W.A.