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March 11, 2013

**RECEIVED & FILED** MAR 2 5 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States

I am a widow of a United Mine Worker. My husband worked at the Peabody Mine #10, Pawnee, Illinois for almost 30 years. He started as a teenager right out of high school and worked there until it closed. He came from a family of coal miners-father, uncles, cousins. Coal mining was a good job, especially the benefits, but it was hard, dirty work, very dangerous and caused many health problems. Many miners never lived to retirement age or even lived long after retiring.

My husband died at 57 years old with many health issues. If it had not been for the UMWA benefits, pension and especially health insurance, we would have went bankrupt. As my husband's health was failing he said to me many times: "Remember the UMWA will take care of you as my widow. You have my pension and health insurance benefits." If he knew what was happening now he would be so upset, mad and disappointed.

I, too, have health problems and no longer work. But I knew I would be OK because of the support of the UMWA.

What has happened to our society? Workers are so quickly pushed aside while the company executives continue to reward themselves.

Please remember the workers and their families!

Sincerely

Augue Fallai

Reyne Pallai (Mrs. Steven)

UMWA District#12

3428 South Second Springfield, IL 62703

