

2022 Miner's Memorial

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Brian Rodriguez, 35
(1986 - 2022)
Sunrise Coal, LLC



Brian Christopher Rodriguez, 35 of Oaktown, went to his heavenly home on Friday, January 7, 2022. He was fatally injured when he was pinned between the remote controlled CMM and the coal rib.

Brian was born in San Antonio, Texas to Anita Medina on October 1, 1986.

Brian was a devoted family man who enjoyed Heaps of Jeeps, was an avid softball player, volunteering on the Oaktown Fire Department, and started the Kings of the Midwest Cornhole. Brian was a member of the Indian Prairie Church and served his country in the United States Marine Corps where he served two tours in Iraq. Brian was employed as a coal miner at Sunrise Coal, LLC.

He was predeceased by: his step-mother Lanette M. Onken; his great-great-grandparent Antonia L. Yanas; and his uncle Herman Medina. He is survived by: his wife Megan Rodriguez; his children, Madelyn, Maddix, Marissa, Mylee, Aundrea, Brian Jr. and Jackson; his parent Anita Medina; his siblings, Anna Rodriguez of Oaktown, Bertha Chambers (Kevin) of San Antonio, Frank Rodriguez (Eunmi), Joe Rodriguez (Meagan) of Oaktown and Brandi McGauley (Paul Kingsley) of Oaktown; and his nieces and nephews, Frank, Anastacia, Julian, Jamie, Aleecia and Braevin.

Cecil Todd Cameron Collett, 32
(1989 - 2022)
Nally & Hamilton Enterprises, Inc.



Mr. Cecil Todd Cameron Collett of Pennington Gap, Virginia, age 32 departed this life on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at Bell County, KY. A large tree fell from a highwall striking the cab of a pick-up truck, resulting in a fatal injury to Todd.

He was born at Hyden, KY on August 12, 1989 the son of Vicky Woods Collett and the late Cecil Elvis Collett. Todd was employed by Nally & Hamilton as a coal miner--demolition blaster.

He was affiliated with the Dry Fork Holiness Church at Helton, Ky. Todd enjoyed ATV riding, fishing, hunting, collecting guns & target shooting. He had a passion for logging, however his greatest joy came from spending time with his family.

Cecil Todd Cameron Collett was preceded in death by his beloved father, Cecil Elvis Collett, maternal grandmother, Bulah Woods, & mother-in-law, Lora Parsons. Mr. Cecil Todd Cameron Collett leaves the following relatives surviving: his cherished mother, Vicky Woods Collett of Warbranch, Ky., his loving and devoted wife, Ashley Stidham Collett of Pennington Gap, Virginia, three treasured sons, Aiden Todd Collett of Warbranch, Ky., Hunter Chasteen of Pennington Gap, Virginia, Chaz Chasteen of Pennington Gap Virginia, two treasured daughters, Kaylonnie Cameron Collett of Warbranch, Ky., Paislee Collett of Warbranch, Ky., one beloved brother, Arizona Collett and Leandra of Helton, Ky., one beloved niece, Raelyn Collett, one beloved nephew, Keaton Collett and a host of other relatives and friends.

Jeffrey A Phillips, 44
(1977 - 2022)
Ohio County Coal Resources, Inc.



Jeff A. Phillips, 44, of Waynesburg, died at 11:34 a.m. Friday, January 14, 2022, in a mining accident in Benwood, W.Va.

He was born Thursday, March 17, 1977, in Waynesburg, a son of James A. Phillips and Karen S. Patterson Phillips.

Mr. Phillips was a member of the Valley Chapel Church in Spraggs. Jeff enjoyed riding ATVs, listening to country music, spending time with his kids and family, and was an avid outdoorsman. He was a coal miner, having started with GMS and later worked his remaining years with NexGen.

On the side, Jeff would do lawn care with his dad and brother. He enjoyed working his farm, and helping his neighbors with their farming as well.

In addition to his parents, Jeff is survived by his two daughters, Miranda Phillips and Keri Phillips, both of Waynesburg; and his son, Jacob Phillips of Waynesburg; one grandson, Levi Phillips of Waynesburg; one sister, Janet (Joey) Kramer of Waynesburg; and one brother, Jamie Phillips of Waynesburg; and several nieces and nephews.

Deceased is his wife, Donna Marie Phillips.

Paul Lee Springer, 44
(1977 - 2022)
LCT Energy, LP



Paul Lee Springer Jr., 44, of Somerset, passed away March 2, 2022, doing what he loved, working in the mines.

He was born October 1, 1977 in Somerset, he is the son of Darlene Kay (Wilt) Nibert, and Paul Lee Springer Sr.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather Leroy Wilt. He is survived by his beloved mother, who he could always count on, his grandmother Violet Wilt, his two children; Amaya and Mason Springer, and his former wife Jamie Ditzler, his girlfriend Jennifer Hoffman, his two father figures; Delver Shaffer and Rodney Nibert, and siblings, Lori Springer and boyfriend Jeff Campbell, Misty Birkhimer and husband Matt, and John Kadillac and girlfriend Joan Carothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Paul worked as a coal miner LCT Energy, where his coal miner co-workers were brothers to him. He loved spending time with his friends and family, laughing and having fun.

James D Brown, 33
(1989 - 2022)
INMET Mining, LLC



James David Brown went underground as a miner for the final time at the young age of 33, on Sunday, March 20, 2022. He worked for InMet Mining LLC at the Darby Fork Mine in Holmes Mill, KY, and was involved in a roof fall, which took his life.

James was born in Harlan, Kentucky, on March 13, 1989, to Marvin and Sharon Gilbert Brown. He grew up in Cumberland and once he was old enough to begin playing football, he found he had a love of and a talent for playing linebacker. He was great linebacker for the Cumberland High School Redskins, winning many awards. After graduating high school in 2008, James immediately made coal mining his occupation. He was a respected coal miner, who always gave 110% effort at his job. James was never one to take handouts so when he was laid off at the mines, he received his certification as a lineman, he received his CDL Class A certificate, as well as his underground mining card.

James was a family man through and through. He was a wonderful father and a loving and protective husband, with a great sense of humor. His family meant everything to him and they were the reason he went underground each day. James loved to hunt, especially with his son, Christian. Together, they would hunt deer, turkey, coyote; it didn't matter what they hunted. Spending time together was the thing James loved most about those hunting trips. He also enjoyed horseback riding and was a skilled rider.

James is preceded in death by his grandparents, Herbert and Lucille Brown and Benton and Robertal Gilbert, as well as several aunts and uncles.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Darla Rash Brown; his three children, Christian Gage Teaster, Jaxson David Brown, and Ava Lee Sue Brown; his parents, Marvin and Sharon Brown; siblings, Amanda Lee Brown and Michael Phillip Gilbert; a special great-aunt, Charlene Brown; other extended relatives, as well as many friends.

Kristofer Ball, 33
(1988 - 2022)
Kanawha Eagle Mining, LLC



On Thursday, September 1, 2022, the Ball family lost their hero in a tragic accident, Kristofer Leslie James Ball lost his life in a mining accident.

Kristofer was electrocuted when he contacted a hook that became energized after it penetrated the 480-volt cable that supplied electrical power to a roof bolting machine.

Kristofer, 33 was born in Logan, WV on September 13, 1988 to Richard L. II and Carrie Ball.

He loved fishing, hunting and all the outdoors and spending time with his family.

Preceding him in death are his brother, Anthony Ball; two uncles, Leslie Hal Ball and James Hunter Jr, his maternal grandparents, James & Lucille Hunter and cousin, John Cody Conley.

Those left to cherish his memory include his parents, Richard and Carrie Ball; grandparents, Minda & Richard Dick Williams, and Leon & Marlene Ball; his wife, Chelsea Ball and three beautiful children, Hadley, Greyson and Weston; his siblings, Crystal Maynard, Clifford (Julia) Ball, and Tiffany (Anthony) Alfarone; brothers and sisters-in-law, Roger Paul (Jodie) McCann and Brandy (Kevin) Seavey; father and mother-in-law, Roger & Susie McCann; along with a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends.

William Andrew Richards, 38
(1983 - 2022)
Tunnel Ridge, LLC



William Andrew "Andy" Richards, age 38, of Cadiz, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 17, 2022. He was caught between a supply car and its coupler. William was sitting on the supply car which was coupled to a locomotive parked in a track spur. The locomotive was struck by another locomotive pulling three loaded cars into the mine. The impact knocked William off the supply car, killing him.

Born December 12, 1983 he was the son of William Michael "Mike" Richards and the late Ethel Richards of Jewett. He was also preceded in death by his brother-in-law Nick Bursac and his father-in-law Sam Bursac. He is survived by his wife of 14 years Tricia Richards, and their children Kylie, Evie, and Declan Richards; sisters Joanna (Tucker) Culver and Brittany (Ryan) Wood; nieces and nephew, Tirzah, Nessa, Payton, Aubrey, Emerson, and Taylor. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Patricia Bursac, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends, as well as his grandfather.

Andy, or Andrew as Tricia called him, was a coal miner by trade. But to those who knew him he was much more than that. He was a loving husband and father. He adored his little family and was an incredible human. He worked hard, both at his job and at home with his family. He was involved in everything he could possibly be, whether it was helping coach, going for pontoon rides, working around the house, helping Pappap, or anything else - he was there. He had a love for music, campfires, being outside, and living life.

Sean Dennehy (46)
(1976 - 2022)
Wilson Creek Energy LLC



Sean Dennehy, 46, Bolivar, went to be with the Lord October 22, 2022. He drowned in an underground sump.

Born April 2, 1976, in Latrobe, the son of the late Leo Dennehy and Cindy (Shine) Ambrose.

Survived by loving wife of 19 years Bridgette (Yount) Dennehy, daughters Caylee Dennehy and Autumn Dennehy; grandson Oliver; sister Sheri Donahue & husband Scott, Lucernemines; nephew Garrett Donahue. Sean was a devoted Steeler fan, proud coal miner and enjoyed the time he spent with his wife and family. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and Pap.



David E Warren, 24
(1988 - 2022)
El Segundo Coal Company, LLC

Steven Hively, 52
(1969 - 2022)
Ramaco Resources, LLC



Steven Howard Hively, age 52, a resident of Philippi, passed away Monday, February 28, 2022 from injuries sustained in a coal mining accident in McDowell County. Steve was born December 26, 1969 in Wooster OH. He was united in marriage on September 30, 1992 to his high school sweetheart Karla Renee (Weese) Hively who survives at home. Also surviving are children; Brooke Renee Davis and husband Levi, their son Carter Steven Davis of Philippi, Brodi Jane Hively and her son Coleson Kent Hively of Myrtle Beach, SC, and Tyler Bennett and his son Daxx of Spencer, WV.

Steve was preceded in death by his father Howard Harold Hively in 1994, and father-in-law Norman "Eddie" Weese in 1997. Steve enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1992 and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC serving with the 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines Field Artillery until November 1999 when he transferred to Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington VA to serve in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He was honorably discharged in March 2001 and had earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. Once discharged from

the service he began his career working in various coal mines and more recently was employed with GMS Mine Repair & Maintenance as an Underground Coordinator for the Corporate/Morgantown Region. Steve was a member of the American Legion Post #96, and was an avid collector of Case knives. He loved spending time with his family, he enjoyed gatherings at his home and was the master griller. Steve was known for his strong work ethic and his desire to lend a helping hand to others. Steve's greatest joy was his grandchildren whom he adored, he loved being a Pappy.