

My Hero, My Husband, My Jerry.

I would like to tell you about my hero. He is not Stan the Man; he couldn't hit a ball with a bat if his life depended on it. He is not Mohammad Ali, couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag. He is not an Albert Einstein, but he is a man among men.

He worked for Arch Minerals for twenty-eight years. He work seven days a week, off only for his two week vacation each summer. For many of those twenty-eight years he worked twelve or sixteen hour days. Why? The answer is very simple; we were blessed with four wonderful children. It was decided it would be beneficial to have their mother in the home. They didn't have the most expensive clothes, the latest electronic toys, or the fanciest cars, but they knew they were loved and well cared for, however, our children did get their father's work ethic. They all worked as they got older and were able to get themselves accepted to and complete their advanced education.

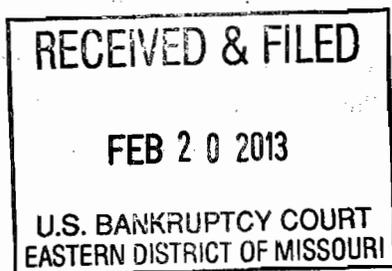
It was my joy, to make certain homework was done, they got to and attended ball practice, games, cheerleading, twirling, band, gymnastics, piano lessons, music completions, tutoring (when necessary), track, cross country, and anything else four active children can be involved in. Jerry missed much of his children's lives because of his long hours and swing shifts at the mine. He missed many family functions, special events and many memories as they were being made. Jerry relinquished these pleasures not only to support his family, but he also loved his job at Arch.

Jerry felt that Arch was a remarkable company to work for. He also felt a strong obligation to give back to the company that was allowing him to support his family. When Arch bosses needed someone to fill in, Jerry worked. The bosses knew they could rely on Jerry to show up and give 110%.

When the mine closed in 1999, it actually was like a death in the family. He was 55 years old and trained to be a very efficient coal miner. Employment is very difficult to find at 55. You are approaching that golden age when you are no longer an asset, but about to turn into a SENIOR! Adding to the difficulty of finding a job was the fact he was only able to make a \$1, 000 a month or we would all lose our medical benefits (after several years it was increased to \$1800). He eventually was able to find work at a local bus garage. Jerry was finally able to retire in the past year at the age of 66

Now, the powers that be want to take what is left of our security. Our income will be cut by 1/3 if they cut our pensions. If they are allowed to take our medical cards and prescriptions benefits it will be more than a 50% loss. Our only choice will be to cut out some of our medications.

In closing, I would ask you to please implore Arch, Patriot, Peabody to Honor their obligations.



Sincerely,
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CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - HR

The Honorable Kelly R. Swartz - States

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Bagerton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-1233

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