

Ladies and Gentleman as you sit here today and listen to facts that will be put before you, I hope you will listen with your hearts on the behalf of the miners of America. Miners need every protection that they can get. They need laws on the book now, later may be to late. On September 23, 2001 my husband was killed in a mine explosion and laid under ground for forty three days along with twelve other miners in Brookwood, Alabama. This went unnoticed because of 9-11. The twelve that went back to get the one was awarded the Carneige Hero Medal. Yet no one herd of this great deed either. Some of you sitting here have no mines in your areas where you represent so you may not see the great need but when the bridge fell in Minneapolis did not each state scramble to check structrues for safety? And some found lacking.? That is the condition today in Mining to keep mining but to do it safe and have the miners best interest ! at hear t. Don't let these Alabama miners down. They have gone unnoticed far to long.

Wanda Blevins

Wife of David L. Blevins

The only foreman killed 9-23-01 going back for his friends.