

2019 West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame Banquet Celebrates 22 Years

Bill Raney, President, WVCA, welcomed everyone on behalf of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute (WVCMI), and the West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA), to the 22nd induction ceremony of members into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame. The event was held on March 20 at the Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV as part of the Joint Meeting and there were 132 attendees present to hear Calvin Kidd give the Invocation.

After dinner, a special presentation took place prior to the induction ceremony. The very first copy of the new book, "**West Virginia Coal Mining Institute – a Short History**" by **Bill Reid**, signed by members of the Board of the Institute was presented to Royce Watts by Joe Pugh, 2019-20 President of WVCMI. Royce became Secretary-Treasurer of the Institute in 1995 and served the organization for 38 years. The book is dedicated to Royce and to the memory of his late wife Caroline.



Royce Watts is Presented with the First Copy of WVCMI History Book by Joe Pugh

"I am very honored that the book has been dedicated to Caroline and I," said Royce. "I want to thank Bill Reid for all his hard work in compiling the history of the Institute. It is important that this history is available to be passed on to future generations. Thank you!"



Royce Watts Surrounded by Vlad Kecojevic and WVU Mining Students

Bill Raney then began the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "In 1998 the leadership of the West Virginia Coal Association and the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute created the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame and inducted the first class of West Virginia

leaders, who are listed in your program this evening,” said Raney. “The photos of Coal Hall of Fame members reside in the Mineral Resources Building at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia.”

The criteria for selection clearly distinguishes a large pool of dedicated leaders, who have made such significant contributions to the West Virginia coal industry. These criteria are:

Must have made a significant contribution to the development and growth of the coal industry in West Virginia as evidenced by documented accomplishments, etc.

Must have devoted a minimum of five years of his or her mining career directly related to the West Virginia coal industry; and

Must have served as an operator, manager, owner, engineer, educator, or other major contributor to the growth and development of the West Virginia coal industry.

Raney said he was honored to be a part of the ceremony recognizing the Class of 2019 inductees and two inductees from the Class of 2018, who couldn't attend last year. He personally congratulated each one. He also thanked the Program Sponsors, and the Program Committee consisting of members of the sponsoring organizations for creating an excellent slate of technical experts for the Joint Technical Meeting, which was to take place the following day. The first two inductees were from the Class of 2018 and the last two comprised the Class of 2019

Frank Calandra



Frank Calandra Accepts Induction into Coal Hall of Fame

The first inductee, Frank Calandra, President and CEO, Jennmar Corporation and subsidiaries around the world, was introduced by Rodney Poland, who described Frank's golf exploits in Australia. Jennmar now has 500 employees in West Virginia and 1,500 employees worldwide.

Calandra thanked the Coal Hall of Fame committee for the honor. He first visited West Virginia in 1953 driving a truck for his Dad. He stayed the night in Summerville and the motel cost \$11 including breakfast. In 1972, he decided to build his first plant in Pennsylvania and was proud to have worked with MSHA to change the roof bolt specs. Later, he saw the great potential in West Virginia, as there were around 300 coal mines, and invested further. He said he wanted to thank all those who worked for him and paid tribute to everyone in all his companies. At age 81, he plans to work for another ten years!

Joseph Craft III



Joe Craft Inducted by Bill Raney

Bill Raney introduced Joe Craft. Born in Hazard, Kentucky, Joe was an outstanding baseball player in his youth. He worked at Mapco then purchased them and formed Alliance Resources, which is a publicly traded, world-renowned organization and a major player in West Virginia. Alliance is the largest coal producer in the eastern U.S. and mines half the coal in Kentucky. Joe is the most humble and genuine man and has done things that no one will ever know to help others. He supports students to excel both at school and in later life.

Craft said that he has been around coal all his life. His Dad was an attorney with many coal clients. Coal people are so solid and such wonderful people. Coal has been good for this country and the rest of the world and we still have a major part to play, he said. indicating that he was sorry his wife, Kelly, could not be with him.

"I want to thank you all for everything you do in our great industry," said Craft. "I am honored to be here and I wouldn't be here tonight if it wasn't for our West Virginia team. They are the ones that provide the results and I'm glad to represent them for what they have done to make our company what it is. Thank you all for the great honor to be here and to be recognized."

James L. "Jim" Corsaro



Jim Corsaro Inducted by Calvin Kidd

Calvin Kidd introduced Jim Corsaro, saying he has known him since 1979, and Jim has had an outstanding career with Eastern Associated Coal, Carbon Industries and Penn Virginia. He was General Manager of the Wells Complex and advanced rapidly to other areas such as VP of Safety and Training, and VP of Engineering. Jim was always committed to each area of his life those being his church, family and jobs.

"It is truly an honor to be included in the Coal Hall of Fame that includes giants of the coal industry," said Corsaro. "Thank you, Calvin, for the things you said as well as the things you didn't say!" Corsaro said that in looking around the room there were many who were no less worthy of such recognition. He referred to the help he has received and said that support starts with a mate keeping the home in one piece, while the guy focuses on mining more coal, reducing costs and providing greater safety. His wife, Betty, has provided such support for over 50 years. He recognized and thanked his three sons, Michael, David, and Matthew.

Corsaro added that success also depends on support from the coal community. He mentioned his Italian immigrant parents, who impressed on him the importance of pursuing an education and working diligently, setting him an example themselves by working hard. He said that his success was due to many others too numerous to mention and hoped that he had had a positive influence on those colleagues that he had the honor to know and work with.

"May God bless you all and continue to bless the coal industry and the wonderful people that serve as stewards for this wonderful God given resource," he concluded.

Daniel D. Smith



Danny Smith Inducted by Bill Raney

Bill Raney said that Danny now lives in Blacksville and it's been six years since he retired as Senior VP, Norfolk Southern. More specifically, he became the leader of Pocahontas Land Corporation in 1995 and was involved in opening, overseeing, and defending more mining and timbering operations than anyone else in southern West Virginia. Under Danny's watch, Pocahontas Land managed well over 1 million acres of coal, land, and timber across seven states. This included multiple coal seams from steam coal to some of the finest met coal in the world.

"Thank you for this great honor that I am sharing with my lovely wife. It's just amazing to be here!" He said, before taking the opportunity to pay tribute to the West Virginia Coal Association and thanking Bill Raney, Chris Hamilton and Jason Bostic for doing a tough job and fighting for our industry.



Joe Craft with the Alliance Coal WV Production Team



Jim Corsaro with Sons: David, Michael and Andrew



Nancy Dean with Nancy Ireland



Mike Hastings and Tom Bannister



Joe and Mary Hatfield with Kevin Whipkey



Dan Alexander and Joe Pugh



Jim Corsaro, Joe Craft and Danny Smith



Tom Sloan, Joe Pugh and Jim Dean



Calvin Kidd and Mike Hastings



Chuck Edwards with Kenny Murray