

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 331

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Received

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the sacrifice and courage of the 16 coal miners killed in various mine disasters in West Virginia, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies.

Whereas coal generates more than half of domestic electricity, providing millions of Americans with energy for their homes and businesses;

Whereas West Virginia is the Nation's second largest coal producing State;

Whereas an average of 7,600 pounds of coal per person per year is used in the United States;

Whereas the United States has an estimated 275,000,000,000 tons of recoverable coal reserves representing about 95 percent of all fossil fuel reserves in the nation;

Whereas coal continues to be the economic engine for many communities;

Whereas coal miners are among the most productive of all American workers, producing 7 tons of coal per miner per day, which results in coal consistently being the most cost-effective choice for generating electricity in the United States;

Whereas during the last century over 100,000 coal miners have been killed in mining accidents in the Nation's coal mines;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they perform to provide the fuel needed to operate the Nation's industries and to provide energy to homes and businesses;

Whereas 13 West Virginia miners were trapped 260 feet below the surface in the Sago mine for over 40 hours following an explosion on January 2, 2006;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked relentlessly in an attempt to save the miners;

Whereas many residents of Upshur County, West Virginia, and the surrounding areas came together at the Sago Baptist Church to support the miners' families;

Whereas 12 miners, Thomas Anderson, Alva Martin Bennett, Jim Bennett, Jerry Groves, George Hamner Jr., Terry

Helms, David Lewis, Martin Toler, Fred Ware Jr., Jack Weaver, Jesse Jones, and Marshall Winans, lost their lives on January 3, 2006;

Whereas only one miner, Randal McCloy, was safely rescued;

Whereas 2 West Virginia miners were trapped by a fire in the Aracoma Alma Mine on January 19, 2006;

Whereas Don Israel Bragg and Ellery “Elvis” Hatfield lost their lives in the Aracoma Alma Mine;

Whereas 2 West Virginia miners lost their lives in separate incidents in Boone County on February 1, 2006; and

Whereas Edmund Vance perished in the Long Branch No. 18 Mine and Paul Moss perished at the Elk Run Black Castle mine: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3            (1) recognizes Thomas Anderson, Alva Martin  
4        Bennett, Jim Bennett, Jerry Groves, George  
5        Hamner Jr., Terry Helms, David Lewis, Martin  
6        Toler, Fred Ware Jr., Jack Weaver, Jesse Jones,  
7        and Marshall Winans for their sacrifice in the Sago,  
8        West Virginia, coal mine;

9            (2) recognizes Don Israel Bragg and Ellery  
10        “Elvis” Hatfield for their sacrifice in the Aracoma  
11        Alma, West Virginia coal mine;

12            (3) recognizes Edmund Vance and Paul Moss  
13        for their sacrifice in the Boone County, West Vir-  
14        ginia, coal mines;

1           (4) extends the deepest condolences of the Na-  
2           tion to the families of these men;

3           (5) recognizes Randal McCloy for his stamina  
4           and courage that enabled him to survive in severe  
5           conditions for over 40 hours;

6           (6) recognizes the rescue crews for their out-  
7           standing effort resulting in the safe rescue of Randal  
8           McCloy; and

9           (7) recognizes the many volunteers who pro-  
10          vided support for the miners' families during the  
11          rescue operations.

12          Passed the House of Representatives February 8,  
13          2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*