

Stewart Bailey was born March 1, 1957, the son of Arnold and Geneva Bailey. He was one of eight children, with five brothers and two sisters. In 1984 Stewart married Melissa, his wife of 35 years, and two years later they welcomed their daughter, Brittany Danielle. Brittany is now married to Dustin Hammonds, and they have blessed Stewart and Melissa with two beautiful granddaughters, Paislee Brooke and Karsyn Danielle.

Stewart started his mining career in 1979; a career that lasted 39 years before he was forced to retire in 2018 due to his cancer diagnosis in 2016. He continues to battle this disease and resides at home with his family.

His career in the industry consisted of several positions such as equipment operator, section foreman, mine manager and safety manager. He became Knott County Coal's safety manager in 1999, and continued in that role for the remainder of his career at Knott County Coal, and then later at two locations owned by Arch Coal. **Safety was the most enjoyable and rewarding part of his career.**

Stewart became involved in Mine Rescue in 1998 as President of the Knott Floyd Holmes Safety Council where he managed the Annual Safety Days Mine Rescue Contest. This contest ran annually until 2008 when, due to the size, it was moved to Pikeville, Kentucky and became a joint venture with MSHA and the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing. Stewart continued to remain heavily involved with the contest.

In 2006 the Mine Act changed requiring all mines to have their own rescue team. At this time Stewart assembled Knott County Coal's first team. He selected team members and began training the team. Two years later Stewart left Knott County Coal and accepted the position of Safety Manager at Arch Coal's Cumberland River Coal Complex. One of his duties at Cumberland River was managing two rescue teams. At this point he began working closely with Arch employee Jim Vicini, an expert in mine rescue. Due to their duties and work load, a decision was made to seek additional training help, and they were fortunate to bring in Lewis Mills. The team quickly became one of the best in the nation, placing 2nd in the 2011 National Contest. Due to a decline in the coal market Cumberland River closed, and Stewart transferred to Arch Coal's Leer Mine in West Virginia. Again, Jim and Stewart decided to seek training help from Lewis Mills. The Leer team quickly became a front runner, winning several contests. The team continues to be very successful today.

Stewart is most proud of the rescue teams he was a part of and his years of service as a board member of the Kentucky Mining Institute and a member of the Kentucky Coal Association's Safety Committee.

KMI congratulates Stewart and his family on this much deserved recognition.