

Symposium Addressed by Industry Icon, Mike Quillen



Ernie Thrasher, Christina Martin, Marvin Woodie, Bill Reid, Rick Honaker, and Bob Ramsey Enjoy Bagpiper

Day 2 of the Bluefield Coal Symposium being held at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton, WV closed with a magnificent Using US Coal for a Better America Celebration Dinner. The after-dinner speaker was Mike Quillen, Retired Founder, President & CEO, Alpha Natural Resources. The title of his address was Everyone Has a Story.

"No one in this room got dropped into their current position, title or job without a lot of things happening along their journey," said Quillen. "Many events seem humorous or insignificant today but were traumatic as life moved along. "I hope after we break, I will have jogged an event or memory that you can share with whoever you can get to listen before starting their own tale."

Mike came into the industry with a master's and bachelor's in engineering and said that a college degree shows two things: first, you have the ability to learn and second, you can finish a somewhat difficult task. Everything else comes from experience and learning from others. He joined the industry just after the 1969 Health and Safety Act and before the 1977 Surface Mining Law starting on the family surface mine as a utility guy doing every job and running every piece of equipment. He did say that the Surface Mining Law was a good thing for the industry.

After he mastered surface mining, he moved on to Paramount Coal and his first venture into coal preparation and underground mining. His first assignment was to be the project manager building a 750 tph prep plant. The he moved to underground mining and got his underground papers. Mike described the remainder of his career including running a Mark 20 Wilcox continuous miner that was moved around with hydraulic jacks in 29" coal.

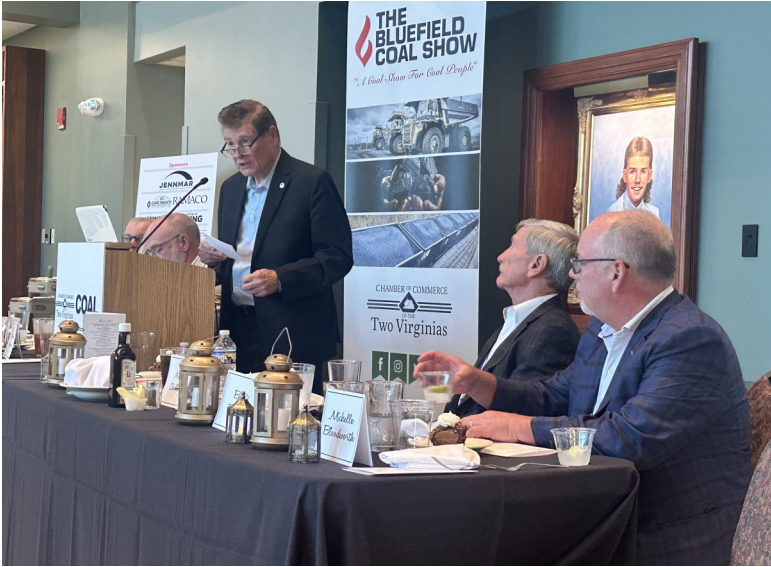
On his 75th birthday, he went underground and loved it except for the paper coveralls. He still has his own coveralls, belt, rescuer, gloves, boots and safety hat. He loves the mine rescue guys and attended contests whenever he could. He could go on for hours telling his stories but enjoys hearing other's even more, not just coalminers but also all parts of the industry including suppliers, vendors, equipment manufacturers, salespeople and everyone, who has had a journey.

Mike's address was followed by a rousing performance by Exile singing many of their big hits from though out the ages. The group is celebrating their 60th year in show business.

The Bluefield Coal Symposium is presented by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and CoalZoom.com. The Symposium chair is Bill Red, founder, President and Managing Editor of CoalZoom. The event concludes on Wednes-

day with a Coal Panel discussion moderated by David Kanagy, Executive Director & CEO, Society for Mining, Metallurgical & Exploration, Inc. which is expected to make some major conclusions about the future of the coal industry and companies who make up the supply chain. Over 275 have attended the Symposium over two days.

The Symposium includes entertainment and Brock's address was followed by a special live performance by **Twitty and Lynn: A Salute to Conway & Loretta**. This dynamic duo celebrated the music and friendship of their iconic grandparents with their performance of "A Coal miner's Daughter" bringing the house down!



Bill Reid Introduces Mike Quillen



Quillen Captivates Audience



Exile Performs in Theatre for Symposium



Exile Sings "Kiss You All Over"