

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF AYDALIZ SANCHEZ,
DAUGHTER OF MANUAL SANCHEZ,
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
October 3, 2007**

August 6, 2007 was the day I lost my dad, Manual A. Sanchez. I could not believe what was happening. I had a call from my mother-in-law, Careleen Peacock, at about 9:30 a.m. asking me if my Dad was home. She told me that the mine had caved in. I looked out the window and his truck was not there. I called my mom and she did not know his status. She called the mine and they would not tell her anything but to just go to Huntington.

My husband and I were the last ones to talk to him. He came to my house and knocked on the door. We sat outside and talked. Then he said, "well, I have to go ... gotta work," and left. I still remember that day and will always keep it with me.

I hate the fact that he will not see my daughter and nephew grow up. I hate the fact that he will not be able to walk my sisters, Ariana and Apoliana, down the aisle when they get married. I hate the fact that he will not be able to see my brother Arturo Sanchez graduate from college. He won't be able to grow old with my mom.

We will miss him on Thanksgiving, which is often around his birthday on November 26th. I will miss him on Christmas when he would always come home with the most ugly tree. I will miss that!

I miss him coming down the street in his truck and his loud music, which showed me that it was him that was coming. I will miss asking him to help me with something and he would say, "do it yourself and that is how you will learn and I will watch you." That is how I learned to change the oil in a car and pull a trailer with my truck.

I have so many mixed emotions – I am mad, sad and angry. I miss him so much, his cooking and his laugh. I miss him giving me grief for marrying a "white guy." But I loved him anyway. I will miss him so much. I wish I had a grave to go to, to pay my respects. I am afraid that will never happen.

We put all our trust in Mr. Murray. That is what makes me most angry. I put my trust in Mr. Murray. He said that he would get them out dead or alive. What happened to that promise? My Dad deserves a grave and not to be left inside that mine like an animal. My Dad died working for Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray owes my dad. I want him to get him out and the other five – Mr. Allred, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Payan, Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Phillips. These men died making Mr. Murray money. Mr. Murray needs to get them out and give us all closure.

I want to thank Chairman Miller for the invitation to give this written testimony, and the United Mine Workers Association for all it has done for us.