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Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection

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Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection

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General Comment

Coal Miner's Son

Billy grew up a Coal Miner's Son
Drove a tank in the First Gulf War
Came back from Iraq and took a job in the mine
Like his Daddy and brothers before
The work was real hard but the money was good
Digging coal underground in the dust
He never worried about what tomorrow might bring
Today was trouble enough

He married his sweetheart Hazel Marie
They had a daughter and named her Jolene
He worked in the mine for twenty-five years
On a coal extraction machine
But the halo of dust he wore like a crown
Left the taste of coal on his tongue
And the silica worked like a drill day and night
Digging way down deep in his lungs

He used to walk up his driveway to the mailbox each day

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Just to see what the mailman had left
But these days it takes all of his strength
For Billy to draw his next breath

No OSHA inspections offered protection
And the mine owners cared even less
When they're selling black gold from the ground by the ton
Lives don't matter I guess
Billy don't work in the mine anymore
He just sits at home out of breath
Doctors call it Black Lung Disease
Billy calls it a living death
He used to walk up his driveway to the mailbox each day
Just to see what the mailman had left
But these days it takes all of his strength
For Billy to draw his next breath

Billy grew up a Coal Miner's Son
He drove a tank in the First Gulf War credits
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