

## 2004 SME Pittsburgh Section Distinguished Member Award

**Frank Ucciardi**  
CONSOL Energy (Retired)

**Mr. Frank Ucciardi** is one of the recipients of the Distinguished Member Award from the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, & Exploration, Inc. (SME) Pittsburgh Section.



Frank Ucciardi was born in New York City in 1930. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, he studied at the Colorado School of Mines, where he graduated as a Mining Engineer in 1959.

His distinguished career in the mining industry took him from section foreman to general mine foreman and mine superintendent to vice president of operations and corporate director of underground mine engineering.

Frank worked with a number of renowned mining companies, starting at U.S. Steel's Robena mine, later for Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company and retired from Consol Energy in 1995. Frank has been active on the Board of Directors of SME Pittsburgh Section for the past six years, where he provided support and experience to the annual calendar fundraising campaign, almost doubling the number of supporters during his tenure.

Frank was involved in the early development of long-wall mining technology at Consol in the 1980s. Frank holds a patent for a mine fan airflow reversal door assembly that does not require a fan shutdown when performing the required monthly function test for the door. He was instrumental in bringing PC-based ventilation network computation and mine fire simulations to Consol's ventilation engineering group. Using airflow simulations, Frank was able to demonstrate that the distance between airshafts could be almost doubled when using Tyvek® to seal the stoppings in the mains and development entries, resulting in significant capital savings.

Frank and his wife Abbie live in downtown Pittsburgh, where they enjoy walking over to Heinz Field for the Steelers games.