The 36th Annual
NATIONAL MINING HALL
OF FAME INDUCTION
Gala
October 28th, 2023
Gaylord Rockies

Richard C. Adkerson
Carolyn Clark Loder
E. Morgan Massey
Albert Eugene Reynolds
Dennis R. Washington
Richard A. Beach
Prazen Recipient

NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM
Dear Gala Attendees,

I am honored to extend my warmest greetings to each of you as we gather to celebrate this year’s National Mining Hall of Fame inductees.

Our organization has been fortunate to have individuals like you who understand the importance of telling the story of mining, its people, and its importance to the American public, and to society’s sustainability. Today, I want to share an exciting development regarding our Endowment Fund, which is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and growth of both the Museum and the Mining Hall of Fame.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our supporters, we are on the brink of achieving our Endowment Fund goal. Having raised over $3.3 million to date, and with a remaining $300,000 required to fulfill our most recent match with the Avenir Foundation, this accomplishment symbolizes more than just a financial triumph. It serves as proof of the trust and confidence our community has in our organization’s capacity to create a significant impact.

With this in mind, we are thrilled to announce that we are actively seeking our final donor to join the prestigious ‘Magnificent 7’ group of donors who have generously given $250,000 each towards our Endowment Fund. This select group represents the epitome of generosity and commitment to our cause. The addition of our next Magnificent 7 donor will be a crucial step in meeting our funding goals and ensuring the lasting impact of our initiatives.

I invite you to consider contributing to our Endowment Fund and potentially become our next Magnificent 7 donor.

Scan the QR code to donate.
Endowment Fund Goal

Your participation will not only help us reach our financial target but will resonate through the halls of our museum, the minds of our visitors, and the heart of our community for generations to come.

Funding the endowment is imperative for us to achieve our upcoming objectives. As caretakers of the organization, we have identified key areas of focus to sustainably serve and safeguard our community:

Organizational Sustainability: Ensuring the longevity of our organization through responsible financial investments, talent, and strategic planning. This objective underpins all our endeavors, enabling us to tackle challenges and capitalize on opportunities as they arise.

Responsible Stewardship of Our Historic Sites and Collections: Preserving our heritage sites and collections is at the core of our mission. With your support, we can undertake vital preservation efforts, refine and protect our existing collections, and ensure the longevity of our existing infrastructure.

Public Programming and Education: Empowering visitors and program participants through education and engagement initiatives is paramount. By expanding our public programs and educational outreach, we aim to ignite curiosity, dispel mining myths, and encourage lifelong learning among people of all ages.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how your support can make a difference, please feel free to reach out to a board or staff member. We are immensely grateful for your past contributions and hope that you will join us as we embark on this transformative phase of our organization’s growth.

Sincerely,
Charles S. McNeil, P.E.
NMHFM Board Member
NexGen Resources Corporation, Chairman and CEO

Scan the QR code to donate.
National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum’s Mission Statement:
Tell the story of mining, its people, and its importance to the American public and to today’s sustainability.

SCHEDULE for the Induction Gala

6pm - Cocktail Hour
7pm - Dinner
8pm - Induction Program
10pm - Dessert Reception
Richard C. Adkerson, an exceptional leader and distinguished advocate of responsible mining, is renowned for his contributions to the industry over four decades. His dedication to excellence serves as an inspiration to future generations and solidifies his legacy as a true trailblazer in the mining sector.

Adkerson joined Freeport-McMoRan in 1989, becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2003 and Chairman of the Board in 2021. He was the primary architect of the “dream come true” acquisition of Phelps Dodge Corporation—a $26 billion transaction creating one of the world’s largest copper producing companies. During his mining career, he has worked extensively with operations in the United States, Indonesia, Peru, Chile, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Under his visionary leadership and strategic guidance, Freeport established itself as a global leader in responsibly produced copper—vital to the advancement of future technologies and the transition toward a low-carbon economy.

At the heart of his success is a commitment to safety, transparency, and ethics as well as supporting employees, communities, and the environment. His competitive spirit, deep understanding of the mining business, and common sense have led to Freeport’s long-term success and ability to sustain through recessions, turbulent geopolitical situations, and a global pandemic.

Adkerson’s passion for the industry’s positive contributions and personal conviction to do the right thing have been instrumental in the advancement of responsible and sustainable mining practices. As a founding member and two-term Chair of the International Council on Mining and Metals, he has championed initiatives to strengthen environmental and social performance. He also was a leader in committing to the Copper Mark, the first comprehensive assurance framework developed specifically to promote responsible copper production practices.

His remarkable track record has garnered the respect of peers and industry experts as well as numerous accolades and recognition. This includes the Copper Club’s 2009 Ankh Award for his invaluable contributions to the copper industry;
his 2010 induction into the American Mining Hall of Fame, solidifying his status as an industry pioneer; and The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers' 2011 Charles F. Rand Memorial Award for his outstanding impact and dedication.

Before joining Freeport, he was a partner in Arthur Andersen & Co. where he managed the firm’s global oil and gas practice as well as a fellow at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Adkerson holds a B.S. in Accounting with highest honors, an MBA, and an honorary Doctor of Science. The University’s School of Accountancy is named in his honor. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. Over the years, he has supported and served in leadership positions in significant civic, health, and educational institutions.
Carolyn devoted her life’s work to protecting access to mineral resources on public and private lands while promoting fair treatment of tribes and local communities. She blazed the trail for inclusion without bias to anyone seeking success in the mining industry. Her dedication to the industry spans forty years. She led early work that spotlighted the massive federal land loss to mineral entry. She was the industry leader in defeating multiple anti-mining ballot measures and has been the driving force in resolving a 400-year tribal land dispute, enabling tribes to obtain their mineral rights. She was a pioneer in responsible and sustainable land use projects. She received national and international awards for her innovative, transparent, and fair approach to her work.

Carolyn’s career began with the U.S. Forest Service in the 1960s. She was involved in federal roadless reviews, wilderness designations, and land management planning. She was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for her significant contribution to the nation’s energy program for promoting the identification of mineral resources thus protecting them from withdrawal from mineral entry. Her Master’s degree dissertation identified the alarming increase in the loss of federal lands to mineral entry.

She served as President of Sonora Mining Corp. Jamestown Mine, the nation’s largest gold flotation facility. Carolyn was first to identify and obtain designation of these lands as a State Mineral Resource Zone thus setting precedent for others to protect access to their hard rock mineral resources. She was the first woman elected President of the California Mining Association in the early 1990s.

Carolyn worked for Freeport-McMoRan, Vulcan Materials, and LafargeHolcim and serves on the Board of Directors of Integra Resources. She was appointed to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for Arizona as the first woman to represent mining and energy interests and chaired its Mining and Energy Committee where she championed a landmark vote opposing the withdrawal of over one million acres from mineral entry.

Carolyn’s trail blazing efforts earned her honors including: the Santo Domingo Tribe for “Outstanding Support and Dedication to the Tribe”; Women in Mining’s “Top 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining”; Bank of Montreal’s “Women-
Carolyn Clark Loder
Inductee № 264

Who-Lead”; California Bipartisan Women Legislator’s “Trailblazer Award”; California State Assembly and Senate “Joint Legislative Resolution of Recognition”; New Mexico Mining Association’s “Weiler/Watts Award for Professionalism”; New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Award for “Innovative Mine Land Use”; and the National Association of Women in Construction “Person-of-the-Year” award. She serves on the Board of the Women's Mining Coalition.

Carolyn gives generously through a university endowment she established in her parents’ name. She has been recognized, but few have been distinguished by such diverse stakeholders, which underscores Carolyn’s commitment to promoting inclusion, equity, transparency, and fairness for all persons and in defending our nation’s right to access its mineral wealth on public lands.
Morgan Massey dedicated his life to improving coal mining technology and productivity while, at the same time, elevating the health and safety of miners. He was a highly successful Chief Executive Officer for A.T. Massey Coal Company, Asian American Coal, Asian American Gas, Inter-American Coal, Evan Energy Investments, and Minerals Refining Company.

Prior to Massey’s joining A.T. Massey Coal in 1948, the family company was a respected trading business representing eastern coal producers. Upon earning a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia, Massey convinced the company to become a coal producer. In a brash move that demonstrated his management talent, young Massey then purchased the financially challenged West Virginia Coal and Coke and quickly made it profitable.

Massey led a major turning point for the U.S. coal industry by developing Martin County Coal Company in 1969. The coal reserves in Martin County, Kentucky were thick but included significant in-seam ash partings. Massey introduced groundbreaking technology using a non-union workforce where surface mining techniques were used to develop deep mine portals for underground access. Diesel power was used underground and the prep plant cleaned both fine and coarse coal. Productivity boomed, proving that mining coal with high in-seam rejects using non-union labor was indeed profitable and created a better work culture for the miners.

Marrowbone, a greenfield mine, was Massey’s first large non-union mine in West Virginia. Marrowbone had high in-seam rejects but met U.S. compliance standards for sulfur. Plans were soon underway to introduce underground “supersections” to reach previously unachieved productivity. There was also a research section where the workforce mined sufficient coal amounts to cover costs then spent the remainder of their time developing new technologies. Elk Run Coal followed Marrowbone in the early 1980s, again setting new productivity standards and placing A.T. Massey among the largest coal companies in the U.S.

After retiring from A.T. Massey in 1991, Massey was instrumental in developing world-class mines in Venezuela and China. He went on to co-found Minerals
Refining Company (MRC) where he helped prove that ultrafine coals, usually discarded as waste, could be profitably recovered using a novel Hydrophobic-Hydrophilic Separation process. As of 2023, MRC is building its first commercial-scale plant in Alabama’s Black Warrior Basin.

Massey gave generously. Of particular interest to Massey were organizations that foster leadership and innovation. His philanthropic legacy includes the Joan and Morgan Massey Foundation, the Massey Foundation (which founded the Massey Cancer Center at Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Medicine), ventilation research at Virginia Tech using unique fiber-optic sensors, and the numerous mining engineers who benefitted from Massey Foundation scholarships. Some notable recognitions he received include the AIME Erskine Ramsay Medal, induction into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame and the Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame, and Virginia’s Lifetime Achievement in Industry Award.
Albert Eugene Reynolds was a mining pioneer in Colorado who owned and operated numerous gold and silver mines between 1879 and 1921. A man of meager beginnings, he personified the American dream by becoming one of Colorado’s most successful mining magnates. Known as an intensely private man, the Cripple Creek Citizen said about him that “the biggest mine operator in the state is almost the least known” in 1898. He was the subject of a 1995 biography Albert Eugene Reynolds: Colorado’s Mining King by Lee Scamehorn.

Born in 1840 in Newfane, New York, Reynolds moved west to seek his fortune after the Civil War. He arrived in Ft. Lyon, Colorado in 1867, where he obtained a sutler license that allowed him to sell goods at military posts and initiated a freighting business that eventually expanded to Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. He supplied beef to army forts and came to own large ranches in Texas and Oklahoma, running tens of thousands of cattle.

While ranching in Oklahoma, Reynolds got the mining bug and spent the next 40 years in Colorado following his passion, always reinvesting profits into his next mining venture. The Frank Hough Mine above Lake City was his first, but mixed results there caused him to move to Ouray, where he purchased the successful Virginus mine and built its successor, the Revenue. He owned the Commodore at Creede and Summitville above Del Norte. He operated the enormously successful Durant and Smuggler mines in Aspen and numerous smaller Colorado mines including the Argenta, Palmetto, and Ocean Wave above Lake City; the Senate, Forest King, and Platero in Conejos County; the Ophir and Cimarron above Telluride; the May Day in La Plata County; the Tarifa and Etcetera above Aspen; the Gold Links, Cleopatra, Fairview, and Gold Cup in Gunnison County; and the Emma in Dolores County.

Many of Reynolds’s properties were in silver, and when the government stopped supporting silver in 1893, the price fell dramatically. To reduce costs at the Revenue, he built a hydroelectric plant near the mine and switched from steam to electrical power, substantially reducing operating costs and making the Revenue the first all-electric mine in Colorado. Always an innovator, he aggressively sought
efficiency and pushed his managers to experiment with the newest mining and milling techniques. His success, despite falling silver prices, attracted the interest of New York investors facilitating his ability to finance future projects.

Reynolds financed the famous “apex” lawsuit in Aspen concerning an owner’s ability to follow a vein onto adjoining claims. He operated mines through the winter at over 11,000 ft. He had the vision, courage, and ability to raise the financing to drive adits through thousands of feet of barren rock at the Revenue, Commodore, and Gold Links to reach lower-level veins eliminating the expense of lifting ore from lower levels to the surface.

Beyond mining, Reynolds was a long-time member of the boards of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology, a trustee of the City Temple Institutional Society, and a founding trustee and 20-year vice president of what is now the Denver Museum of Natural History.
Dennis R. Washington
Inductee № 267

Dennis R. Washington is the founder of The Washington Companies, a worldwide multi-billion-dollar enterprise with thousands of employees in mining, rail and marine transportation, shipyards, environmental construction, heavy equipment sales, and aviation products. Starting in 1964 with a leased bulldozer and a $30,000 loan, he built a widely respected international heavy construction business that eventually diversified into The Washington Companies.

Born to meager beginnings, Dennis worked odd jobs as a boy and was self-sufficient by age 14. After high school, he moved to Alaska and discovered his passion for heavy equipment. Returning to Montana to work for his uncle, he soon became vice president of the largest construction company in the state. Three years later at age 30, Dennis started Washington Construction Company. In 1996, the company purchased Morrison Knudsen, a publicly traded construction and engineering giant with mining operations. After acquiring portions of Westinghouse and Raytheon in 2000, the company employed 25,000 people in 40 U.S. states and 30 countries as Washington Group International Inc., which was sold to URS in 2007.

Dennis designed a business model of customer service, productivity, innovation, and talent to consistently maintain his position as the low-cost producer. He first applied this mindset to mining in 1970 with the award of a phosphate mining contract. In 1986, he acquired the dormant Anaconda Copper Company/Atlantic Richfield Company Continental copper/molybdenum mine in Butte, Montana. The efforts of a dedicated team and Mr. Washington’s vision resurrected the operation as Montana Resources, a profitable enterprise with employee profit sharing and other innovative efficiency measures, revitalizing the Butte community and contributing significantly to Montana’s mining economy. In 2023, the company projected another 30-year mine life and continues to receive national safety recognition and community and state leadership awards.

In 1988, Dennis and his wife Phyllis formed the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, which donated over a half billion dollars by 2024 to non-profits focused on education, health and human services, arts, culture, and community service. Ongoing support of the 64,000-acre Washington Family Ranch-Young Life in Oregon provides a unique Christian summer camp experience for thousands
of young people. Always grateful for their self-made success, Dennis and Phyllis provide educational opportunities to underprivileged youth through multiple scholarship endowments.

Dennis’ business and philanthropy recognition includes the American Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award (1990), Horatio Alger Association Award (1995), the Horatio Alger Association’s Norman Vincent Peale Award (2012), Ellis Island Medal of Honor (1996), the SS Beaver Award for Maritime Excellence (2012), and induction into the American Mining Hall of Fame (2007). Beyond his own entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen, Dennis humbly attributes much of his success to the work of exceptional people with timely and perceptive advice and passion for the project.
Richard A. Beach, Chair of the SME Colorado Section MEC committee, graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a professional degree in geological engineering in 1966. After a stint in graduate school, Dick served two years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Virginia and Vietnam. Dick worked as a geologist and physical scientist for the U.S. Bureau of Mines from 1972 until retirement in 1994. At the Bureau, Dick assessed mineral resources on Federal and Indian lands. His work analyzed restraints on mineral exploration and development and applied them to statewide studies of Federal mineral lands in several Rocky Mountain States.

Since retirement, Dick has continued to be actively involved in professional activities with the Colorado Mining Association, Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association, Denver Mining Club, Denver Region Exploration Geologists’ Society, Mineralogical Society of America, Mining History Association, and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration. As Chair of the Colorado Section Minerals Education Coalition, Dick makes presentations about mining and minerals in Denver Metro area classrooms, as a judge of science fair projects, and at other venues.

Dick has been an active volunteer and leader with the Boy Scouts for more than 45 years. He works with scouts earning the Mining in Society merit badge and leads backpacking and camping trips in the Colorado wilderness, canoeing Rocky Mountain rivers, and an annual climb of a Colorado Fourteener.
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