



National Education Association - New Mexico

Great Public Schools Begin With Us!

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Local Retiree Honored for Years of Service

The National Education Association of New Mexico bestowed its highest honor to retired Los Lunas teacher, **Ralph J. (RJ) Mirabal**. RJ was inducted into the NEA-NM Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Albuquerque recently for his service to the profession and to NEA. Spanning a 39 year career, RJ taught English at Los Lunas High School, spending endless hours painstakingly reading volumes of student work.

He developed and then sponsored the student drama program, as well as sponsoring the speech and debate organizations at LLHS. In 2006, his colleagues nominated him for the NEA-NM Award for Teaching Excellence, which he did receive and for which he was feted at the annual gala in Washington, DC to honor all the stat awardees.

AS respected and effective as RJ was in his teaching, he was just as respected and effective as a strong union advocate for his members at the High school and throughout is NEA-Los Lunas local. He represented members and assured they would be treated fairly and with respect as professionals. He served in most local offices, including local president and newsletter editor for many years.

He also is an active community contributor; volunteering for the Albuquerque Civic Light Orchestra, teaching Bible school, and enjoying his involvement in the land of Enchantment BMW Riders Club.

His former LLHS colleague and current NEA-NM Executive Director, Charles Bowyer states, "I am proud to call him my friend, colleague, and Union brother."