

# National Education Association's 87th Representative Assembly

**Friday, July 4, 2008**  
**Update From Our Nation's Capitol**  
**By: Melody Kelly, OMTA Delegate**

The National Education Association's July 4<sup>th</sup> Representative Assembly Meeting included 31 New Business Items (NBIs). Appropriate to the spirit of the day, many of the proposals concerned the military and their families. NBI 22 "encourages all state organizations to support or initiate state legislation which would enable military personnel and their dependents to obtain in-state tuition where they reside." This motion was passed by the assembly, which recognized that military families do not always choose where they live. NBI 13 would require NEA to publish information regarding the student privacy option on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Batter (ASVAB). In 2006, 250 schools in 34 states made this exam mandatory. The military uses this test to identify good candidates. The assembly recognized the value of the test, but wanted parents and students to be able to make choices about their privacy. This motion was passed by the assembly.

NEA President Reg Weaver presented and awarded Teacher Astronaut Barbara Morgan with the Friend of Education Award. Previous recipients of this award include President Jimmy Carter and President Bill Clinton. In her speech, Morgan commended all of her NEA colleagues and recognized the legacy of Christa McAuliffe. She thanked NEA for their consistent support of NASA and its programs, even in the wake of the Challenger disaster. After traveling through space, Morgan will be returning to a classroom in Idaho where her students will no doubt be inspired by her experience. The NEA Choir followed this amazing American teacher with a medley of hero-inspired patriotic tunes, while all National Board Certified Teachers were invited to the stage. Lucky for us, we were able to send Vernon's NBCT **Mary Kay Scheid**, OMTA elected NEA Delegate, to be recognized alongside hundreds of other NBCTs and teachers of the year. Cannons shot confetti at the conclusion of this uplifting segment as OMSD Delegates welcomed Mary Kay back to California's Service Center One section with a standing ovation.

The delegation has cast votes for new NEA leadership, joined caucuses, and lobbied politicians to encourage their support of education. Fortified by Subway sandwiches and good company, we look forward to tomorrow's business agenda. Go to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) to enjoy highlights of the 2008 Representative Assembly and learn how you too can affect positive changes in this critical election year.