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Hi Member,

In This Issue

- Positive Update on ET and SPED/Speech Assessor Cuts
- Erroneous DFAS Dues Deductions
- In Memoriam: Sheridan R. Pearce

[Positive Update on ET, SPED/Speech Assessor, and ESP Losses](#)

FEA Washington Office and NEA have been working tirelessly to address the harm caused by DoDEA's decision to eliminate ESP positions like ET, SPED/Speech Assessor, and Automation Clerk positions at the end of the last school year. These cuts created significant disruptions for educators, students, and school communities, and we have been advocating consistently to ensure these issues are acknowledged and corrected.

This week, we received the first external response to those efforts. Senator Jon Ossoff sent [this formal letter](#) to DoDEA Director Narvaez raising concerns about several ESP positions, like the elimination of special education and speech language assessor positions and requesting explanation and accountability. This letter is directly connected to the extensive work FEA Washington Office and NEA have been doing on behalf of our members.

We want to be clear that this is only the beginning. We will continue pushing for a full and fair resolution for all educators and ESPs affected by these cuts, and we will keep members informed as progress continues.

[Erroneous DFAS Dues Deductions](#)

FEA has been notified that DFAS improperly deducted union dues from some members' paychecks. We want to be clear that FEA did not request or authorize these deductions, and DoDEA management had already agreed with us that dues would be set to zero this year. Despite that agreement, DFAS processed deductions in error, and FEA has formally requested immediate correction and guidance on how this will be remedied for affected members.

[In Memoriam: Sheridan R. Pearce](#)

July 21, 1946 - November 18, 2025



The Federal Education Association honors the life of Sheridan R. Pearce, former FEA President and lifelong educator, who passed away on November 18, 2025, at age 79.

Sheridan served in the U.S. Army before beginning a distinguished career in education, teaching and coaching in Texas and overseas. He went on to hold several key leadership roles, including serving on the NEA Board of Directors (1995–2001) and as FEA President (2001–2007). He later continued his service to DoDEA educators as a Math Coordinator, returning to the subject he loved most. Despite his many accomplishments, Sheridan always said, “I am a math teacher,” believing it was the most important job he ever held.

H. T. Nguyen, who served as Executive Director and General Counsel during Sheridan's presidency, shared: A true believer in labor-management relations and a consummate deal maker, Sheridan worked closely with Dr. Joe Tafoya, then DoDEA Director, to improve educators' working conditions and benefits. Sheridan achieved his ultimate goal of allowing teachers to be left alone to do what they do best: teach!

Sheridan adored his wife, Stevie, and deeply loved his family. He is survived by Stevie, their children, grandchildren, and extended family. His decades of service, both in the classroom and in leadership, leave a lasting legacy within FEA and the wider education community.

Donations in his memory may be made to the NEA Foundation at www.neafoundation.org.

In Solidarity,
Federal Education Association

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