

In Memoriam of Dr. James Murphy, DABT, Ph.D
By J. William Hirzy, Jim's Friend and Union Brother

Saddened by news of Jim's passing sent by NTEU Executive Board Member Amer Al-Mudallal, I've gone to my memory and to material on the website I and Dr. Robert Carton maintain [www.http://epaunionhistory.org](http://epaunionhistory.org), to produce this summary of Jim's many important contributions to the union. For details about any of the material appearing below, please go to that website. (Bob Carton is a charter member of the union, and also served on many union offices)

By "the union" I mean NTEU Chapter 280 and its predecessor, Local 2050 of the National Federation of Federal Employees, which was organized in 1983 and won the right to represent Headquarters professional employees the following year, with a 92 percent plurality in the election administered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Jim was one of the professionals who helped in the organizational work that began in 1981, and he joined the Executive Board of NFFE 2050 as a Vice-President in 1988, serving continuously as such through 1992. From 1996 through 1999, and 2001 through 2003 he was President. In 2005 he served as President-Elect, but during a change in Chapter By-Laws, his 2006 tour of duty was as Executive Vice-President. He also served in that position in 2004 and 2006. I retired in 2008, and Jim was not on the Executive Board in 2007 and 2008. During this time he also served on the Editorial Board of our newsletter, *Inside the Fishbowl*. That's as far as the union history in my possession goes.

Needless to say, during the period covered above, when the union was heavily engaged with management on many workplace issues and issues of scientific integrity, Jim was up to his elbows in all of those issues.

For instance, when the union first became aware of political interference with public health protection – regarding backing away from regulating asbestos risks under TSCA in 1984 – the union wrote an Open Letter to Administrator Thomas complaining that first-class scientific and legal work of EPA staff was being subverted by political influence, Jim was one of the 125 signatories of Office of Toxic Substances employees on that Open Letter. (See the union history website)

And when the Natural Resources Defense Council became aware of our action on asbestos and asked us to join their lawsuit over the Agency's drinking water standards for fluoride by submitting an *amicus curiae* brief on the science, Jim was part of our affirmative response. His standing and training as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology was essential to our having a valid science-based brief. As the union became ever more involved in this issue Jim, along with other union scientists wrote a White Paper on the subject, which was used as a public communication instrument.