



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Stephen T. Chan

Senator Chan's Interns On The Commendation of Rev. Ed Lai

AMY WU, KAYLE KAM, AND ERIC LI August 7, 2025

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OP-ED: We need more people like Rev. Edward Lai

At only 44 years old, Rev. Edward L. Lai has already dedicated over 4,000 hours to serving his community through various organizations. He has also earned multiple awards commending his service, including the President's Call to Service Award and Stevie Award.

Throughout his career, Edward Lai has served as a leader in multiple fields, spanning from being the Chairman of the Advisory Board at Salvation Army Bensonhurst Corps to being the Executive Committee Member of Kings County. He spent 11 years as a board member on

the Brooklyn Community Boards 7 and 11, advocating for older adult services. For his work, Lai received citations from governors in multiple states. His work continued during the pandemic, where he continued his community services awarded by President George H.W. Bush. He has also been recognized for his long dedication. Former President Obama recognized Edward Lei for spending over 4000+ hours volunteering. Governor Kathy Hochul and Eric Adams have also recognized it.

On August 4th, Senator Stephen Chan gave a speech to senior citizens at the Salvation Army Bensonhurst Corps, expressing his gratitude for Lai's service to the community. Following his speech, his interns introduced Edward Lai and his accomplishments in four different languages: English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish. The Senator presented Edward Lai the Commendation Award from the New York State Senate for his unwavering dedication to serving the community of South Brooklyn.

One of his interns, Amy Wu, the English master of ceremonies, stated, "Although the media covers more about the negative aspects in our community, Mr. Lai makes me regain hope and reminds me that there are people like him who are willing to spare no effort and time in helping others." In recent times, there have been many crimes covered on the news such as hit-and-run stories which makes it easy to demoralize the spirit in the community. However, when people like Lai receive awards, it not only boosts the spirit of the community as it reminds residents that there are still kindhearted people, but also that those who show compassion to our community get recognized and rewarded.

Another one of the Senator's interns, Eric, commented, "While listening to his speech, I couldn't help, but feel empowered and a sense of pride for his contributions to our community. His achievements in our community are deserving of great merit, like the award he was presented with today." This sentiment encapsulates the admiration felt throughout the community, underscoring him as not just a public figure but a role model to the younger

generations. His legacy is a testament to how we should be proactive in our own communities as well as actively striving in our society.

Ultimately, Kayle, another one of the Senator's interns, notes that "Brooklyn would not be the way it is without people like Edward Lai who selflessly dedicates his time to advocating for our community". It is refreshing to see that our community always has someone fighting for us and providing the senior citizens in our neighborhood the best services possible.

Edward Lai, an outstanding member and advocate for the community of Brooklyn, continues to devote his time and resources to providing services for seniors through his business and healthcare ventures. Senator Stephen Chan applauds Lai's contribution to the community, suggesting that others follow in his footsteps and give back to the community.

For more information:

CONTACT:

The Office of Senator Stephen T. Chan

Phone: (718) 333-0311

Email: Chan@nysenate.gov