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**SENATOR STEPHEN T. CHAN**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT**

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**Senator Chan Honors Fallen Heroes at 158th Kings County Memorial Day Parade**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Monday, May 26, 2025

**Brooklyn, NY** – On Monday, May 26th, the Bay Ridge community gathered in strength and unity for the 158th Kings County Memorial Day Parade- the oldest continuously held Memorial Day parade in the nation. The event served as a powerful tribute to the service members who gave their lives in defense of our country, and a clear reflection of Bay Ridge’s enduring respect for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

This year’s parade route began at Third Avenue and 78th Street, with thousands of residents, veterans, elected officials, and community organizations in attendance. Marching bands, JROTC units, and local groups lined the route, culminating in a ceremonial program at John Paul Jones Park near Fort Hamilton.

One of the most solemn and meaningful moments of the day was the presentation of the MIA/POW flag—a tribute to those American service members still missing in action or held as prisoners of war. The presentation was a reminder of the unfinished chapters in many families’ stories, and it served as a call to remain vigilant in honoring those who have not yet returned.

“So, who wants to hear from a politician anyway? Nobody, right? So I’m gonna speak to you as Steve Chan, the United States Marine. I’m going to speak to you as Steve Chan, the NYPD police sergeant. I’m gonna speak to you as Steve Chan, the PTA president,” exclaimed Senator Chan.

Senator Chan continued, “The fact that I can do all those things is because of the sacrifices that our veterans, that has come and gone before us, the sacrifice, the price that they paid so that we can enjoy our liberty and freedom. I stand here today to honor them, to respect

them, and to give thanks to my brothers and sisters who have died before us, so that we can stand here today and enjoy Memorial Day...”

Following the parade, attendees participated in a flag-raising ceremony, wreath laying, and a 21-gun salute carried out by the Veteran Corps of Artillery. Major General Kris A. Belanger served as this year’s Grand Marshal and delivered remarks focused on service, sacrifice, and the importance of community support for veterans.

The Kings County Memorial Day Parade Committee, along with veterans’ organizations and community leaders, coordinated the event, which continues to be one of the most respected Memorial Day observances in New York City.







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