On the beautiful sunny and breezy Saturday morning of May 27, 2017, the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) participated in the procession of the annual Memorial Day Parade to commemorate the sacrifice of American veterans. The ACA contingent was 17-strong and consisted of all ages: Leonard Przekaza, Rose Guo, Henry Gee, Rudy & Grace Keng, Shen & Kathy Lee, Suhui & Cuipeng Wang and their two sons Kevin and Andrew; ACA Executive Director Joyce Li, her husband Lijun Chen and their two sons Gabriel and Daniel; ACA President Roland Hwang; and ACA Board member, Sue Sung. U.S. Congressman Sander Levin and Madison Heights Mayor Brian Hartwell stopped by to visit our team and took pictures with us. The ACA team was joined by a total of 90 civic groups in the parade procession.

The American flag used by ACA in the parade was donated by Chinese American AMVET Post 85 to ACA. This flag was proudly presented to ACA in honor of the Chinese American AMVET members and the Detroit Flying Tigers whose service records are displayed on the Veterans Memorial Honor Plaque and interactive display at the Chinese Community Center in Madison Heights. Many of the Chinese American AMVET Post 85 members served during WWII in the Pacific region and they are now in their 90’s and limited in their mobility. We were honored to represent them. The flag held by Mr. Lijun Chen during the entire procession flew proudly and freely in the wind and received salutes from uniformed soldiers, policeman and veterans.

While the team waved flags to the bystanders, our four young ACA children also gave candies to the cheering children along the sidewalks. After a mile journey, the parade ended at the square plaza in front of the Madison Heights City Hall. There the memorial service began with Mayor Hartwell’s speech to honor those soldiers who fought for our freedom and gave their lives. One soldier hero from Madison Heights was remembered this year with wreaths and flowers at the end of the 2017 Memorial service in Madison Heights. Without their sacrifices, we would not have what we have today. This is in line with the sentiment that is often expressed that for the soldiers, the most terrible thing is not to die for your country, but to be forgotten.

(see photos below)
U.S. Representative Sander Levin with ACA parade team.

Madison Heights Mayor Brian Hartwell with ACA Parade team
ACA member Lijun Chen leading the ACA parade team holding the flag donated to ACA by Chinese American AMVET Post 85