



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Monica R. Martinez

## Senator Monica R. Martinez and NYS Senate Colleagues Discuss Improved Gold Star Bill

MONICA R. MARTINEZ April 16, 2019

(Lindenhurst, NY) - On Monday, April 15th, Senator Monica R. Martinez, joined by members of the Long Island Democratic Majority and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), discussed Senate Bill S.5187, introduced by Senator John Brooks, also known as the “Gold Star” bill. Under the revised bill, the state will provide cost-free tuition to any SUNY and CUNY institution for family members of military personnel who perished as a result of their official duties, have become permanently disabled and are classified as missing in action (MIA).

This legislation has garnered bipartisan support and co-sponsorship in the State Senate. In addition to changes to the language within the proposed bill, the effective date has been moved to April 1, 2020 in order to allow for the appropriation of funds in the 2020-2021 budget.

“As an aunt of a nephew in the Air Force, and a member of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs committee, I am dedicated to enacting policies that support our armed forces and their families. It is our duty as policymakers to protect and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. As a former teacher and administrator, I am keenly aware of the importance of a higher education. However, the cost of a college degree

can often be a tremendous burden, especially in the wake of losing a parent or guardian in combat. Our service men and women have committed to protecting us at home and abroad, and now it is our responsibility to protect, and to honor, those individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us all.” stated Senator Martinez.

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