



STATE SENATOR

Tom Casperson

MEMORIAL DAY

A Grateful Nation Remembers

New Agency to Better Serve Michigan's 680,000 Veterans

Many veterans are unaware of the benefits they have earned. The new Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency aims to better connect veterans to programs involving health care, education and employment.

A decorated veteran, Jeff Barnes, has been appointed to head the agency. Barnes served nearly 10 years as an Armored Cavalry Officer in the U.S. Army, including tours in Korea and the Balkans, and two tours in Iraq.

Along with improving service delivery to veterans, the agency continues to support the operations of Michigan's two State Veterans Homes. Find more information at www.michigan.gov/veterans.

Bills Add Veterans Designation

Legislation now signed into law will allow honorably discharged veterans to request a veteran designation on their driver's license or state ID card.

The designation will help veterans more easily access the special discounts offered to veterans and their families by many businesses. Veterans will be able to show their status with their driver's license or state-issued ID card instead of having to carry around their discharge papers.

The veteran designation is not legal proof of prior military service and will not replace the DD 214 when a veteran applies for federal or state benefit programs.

The new laws take effect May 1, 2014.

Free Fishing License for Disabled Veterans

Under a new law, any Michigan 100-percent-disabled military veteran can receive resident fishing or hunting licenses—for which a lottery is not required—free of charge.

Veterans must provide proof of eligibility at the time of purchase and carry this proof when fishing or hunting. Licenses can be obtained at www.mdnr-elastic.com or at a local license retailer.

Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy Michigan's outdoor heritage, especially servicemen and women wounded in service to our country!

Michigan Senate Remembers

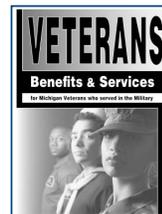
For the 19th straight year, a special Senate Memorial Day service will pay tribute to our fallen heroes.

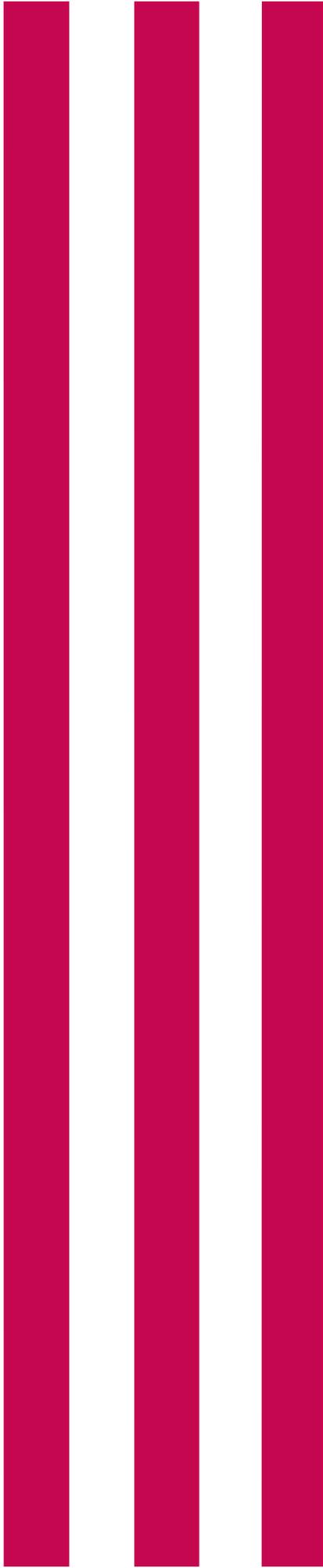
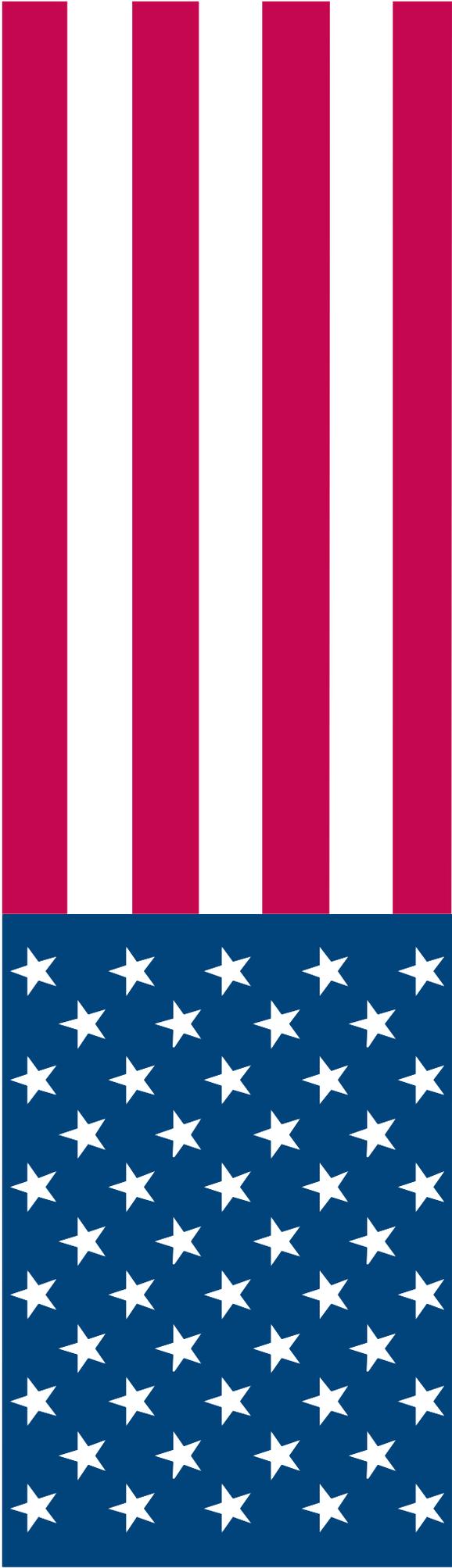
This solemn event will honor Michigan residents who were killed in action over the previous 12 months. Families of the fallen will also be recognized by the Senate.

The service will be held on Thursday, May 23 and start at 10 a.m. Veterans unable to attend the ceremony can follow online at www.senate.michigan.gov.

Veterans Benefits and Services Booklet

The *Michigan Veterans Benefits and Services* booklet contains information about veterans benefits and services available through federal, state and local agencies. Visit my website at www.SenatorTomCasperson.com to view the publication or call my office to receive a print copy.





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