STATE SENATOR

Jack Brandenburg

MAY 30 – MEMORIAL DAY

A Grateful Nation Remembers

Sen. Brandenburg to join in a moment of remembrance

The National Moment of Remembrance asks Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day - May 30, 2011 - for a moment of silence in an act of national unity to honor those who have died in service to our country.

This small but important tribute allows us to remember together the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate price so we may live in freedom.

Brandenburg supports new law on veterans' care

Senate legislation signed into law late last year ensures Cold War-era veterans can continue to receive services at our veterans' homes.

Under the new law, Public Act 341 of 2010, if a veteran qualifies for VA benefits for long-term care or day care, they are eligible for admission to the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Currently, 20 percent of the veterans at the two homes served during the Cold War.

SB 282 would establish Patriot Week

Legislation recently passed by the Senate encourages Michigan residents to honor the First Principles, founders, documents and symbols of our country during Patriot Week.

Under Senate Bill 282, this special observance would begin on the solemn day of September 11 and conclude on September 17, Constitution Day.

Patriot Week provides a great opportunity for all of us to renew the spirit of America through an understanding and celebration of what makes us the greatest nation in history.

Brandenburg supports Gold Star Family plate

I believe we should help families honor loved ones who died in service to our country.

Under Senate Bill 102, a spouse, parent, sibling or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat could apply for a special license plate inscribed with a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family."

This special plate would not only honor the sacrifices borne by our military families, but act as a "moving memorial" for those who lost their lives in combat.

Currently, Michigan offers specialty plates recognizing prisoners of war, veterans of World War II, Vietnam and other conflicts, Pearl Harbor survivors, disabled veterans and Purple Heart medal recipients.

The bill passed the Senate and has been sent to the House.

Michigan Senate remembers

The Michigan Senate will open session on Thursday, May 26 at 10 a.m. with a solemn tribute to our fallen heroes.

For the 17th straight year, the special Senate Memorial Day service will remember the servicemen and women who gave their lives while fighting for our country.

The ceremony will honor Michigan residents who were killed in action over the previous 12 months. Families of Michigan's fallen will also be recognized by the Senate.

Veterans unable to attend the ceremony can follow the service online at **www.senate.michigan.gov**.

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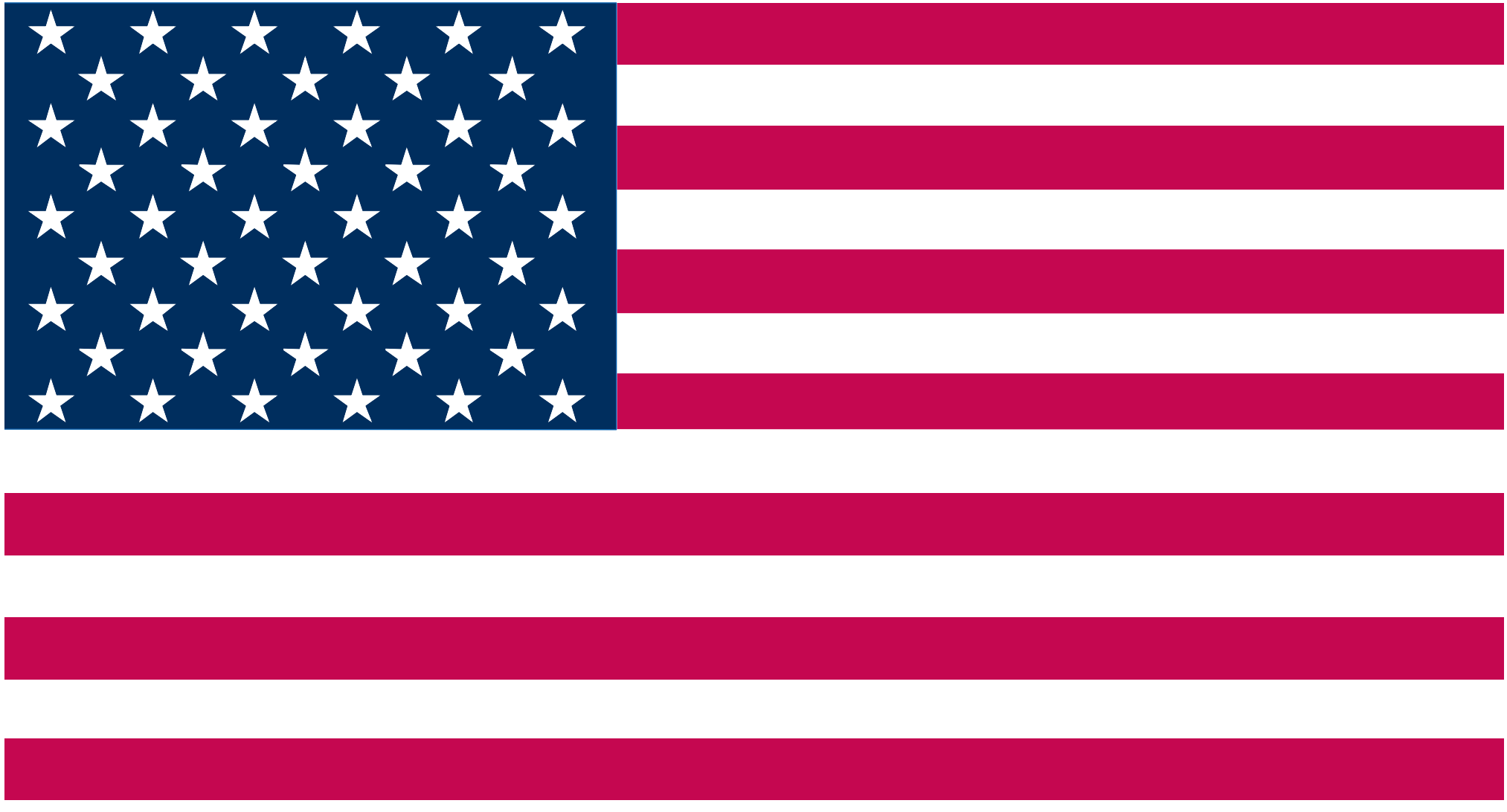

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