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STATE REPRESENTATIVE **RON BUXTON** 103RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Inside...

Why the Census matters to you

ATTENTION VETERANS!

Seeking World War II & Korean War Veterans living in the 103rd Legislative District

I am pleased to be planning a special event to honor all World War II and Korean War veterans living in the 103rd Legislative District. This includes the city of Harrisburg, Steelton, Highspire and part of Swatara Township.

If you or someone you know is a World War II or Korean War veteran living in the 103rd Legislative District and would be interested in being honored at this event, please contact my office to sign-up yourself or another veteran. **You also can visit my Web site at www.pahouse.com/buxton and click**

on the veterans' event feature at the top of the page, or call my office at (717) 783-9342.

When you register, please have the following information: name, address, branch of service and dates of service.

I want to make sure to invite as many local veterans as possible as a small gesture of appreciation and gratitude for their sacrifices.

I hope you can join me for this special occasion.

United States® Census 2010



MAKE SURE YOU COUNT!

The U.S. Census is conducted once every 10 years to count the number of people living in this country.

The purpose of the original Census was to count every person and use that number to determine representation in Congress. That was 220 years ago. According to current estimates, about 316 million people live in the United States.

Since 1790, the U.S. Constitution requires the Census to be taken every 10 years. Naturally, times have changed and our nation has grown exponentially over the last two centuries. The Census data still affects representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, but it also helps to determine what federal aid local communities receive and serves as a research tool for various quality-of-life issues and projects.

Under the U.S. Constitution, electoral districts across the country must be periodically adjusted or redrawn to account for population shifts. This redistricting process changes electoral district and constituency boundaries, usually based on Census results. While the Census provides valuable information with regard to population patterns, it is not a requirement for redistricting.

The Census data reflects changes in our communities that are crucial in determining how many seats Pennsylvania

will hold in the U.S. House of Representatives and also helps to determine how more than \$300 billion per year is allocated for local projects like new hospitals and schools. We have a wide range of infrastructure needs, including bridges, tunnels, water and sewer projects, senior centers, employment centers, and emergency services that could benefit from this federal assistance. That is why it is so important to be accounted for in the 2010 Census.

Furthermore, many groups and organizations use the Census data as a research tool for various purposes. It can be used for disease prevention information, to advocate for causes, locate specific categories of workers, draft legislation and to rescue victims during a disaster.

I urge you to fill out a 2010 Census form. My office can help answer questions you have. Much like the first form in 1790, the 2010 Census form only asks a few questions and doesn't take a lot of time to fill out.

HOW IT WORKS

1. A questionnaire will be mailed or delivered to your home – whether that's at a house, apartment, nursing home or dormitory – in March 2010.
2. The questionnaire will need to be filled out and mailed back to the Census Bureau by April 1, 2010.
3. If you do not mail in the

first form, a second one will be sent. If the second one is not mailed in, a Census worker will either visit or call your household and ask the questions, filling out the survey in person.

4. This year's Census will only include the short form, which takes just a few minutes to complete. It only will ask for the number of residents in your household, their names, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and how long each has lived there.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

1. Census data is used to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal and state funding each year for a number of projects, programs and services in each state, including:
 - Unemployment Insurance
 - Medicaid
 - Airport improvements
 - Highway planning and construction
 - Keystone Opportunity Zone program
 - Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
2. The more people who are counted, the more money Pennsylvania receives from the federal government.
3. Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, since those seats are distributed based on population. The more

DID YOU KNOW?

Los Angeles today has a population of more than 4 million. The entire population of the United States was 3,929,000 in 1790. The entire population of the U.S. in that first Census could fit into Los Angeles this year.

people who are counted in Pennsylvania, the more seats the Commonwealth will have in Congress and the more political power Pennsylvania will have.

4. The same applies in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The more people who are counted in local districts, the more representation our area will have in the state House of Representatives. State senatorial districts also may change and be adjusted, based on local populations.

5. Census data also is used for developing statistics on social, health and economic aspects of the nation, as well as general statistical data for local, state and federal government agencies.

6. The data also gives us a "snapshot" of who we are as a people and country.