

## **Remarks at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the Census Bureau's National Processing Center**

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Good afternoon. I am delighted to be here today with Census Director Steve Murdock, and the other distinguished visitors and the Census staff for the National Processing Center's (NPC) golden anniversary.

On behalf of Secretary Gutierrez and all of us at the Department of Commerce, I congratulate you for outstanding service over the years and the tradition you have continued to carry forward with pride into the twenty-first century.

This campus has a rich history that goes back to the 1870's, following the Civil War. The War Department opened Jefferson Army Depot here as a quartermaster facility. It supported several wars that followed, ending with the Korean War. Local residents made shirts for the entire Army. They were also responsible for purchasing and issuing horse or mule-drawn vehicles, harnesses, and field bakeries. It was on this installation that one of the first mobile kitchens was developed.

Since the National Processing Center opened on July 1, 1958, another chapter of service to the nation has continued to unfold through your hard work. Annually, NPC supports the collection and processing of data for more than 200 demographic and socio-economic survey programs, the economic census and the census of governments.

Currently, you are also getting ready for this installation's sixth decennial – a daunting task and challenge unto itself.

And, with professionals like you, the Census Bureau will continue to distinguish itself as the nation's leading collector of timely and accurate data. These data help us measure who we are, understand the dynamics of how we're changing, and they directly affect how we can improve on our quality of life.

In closing, thank you again for inviting me to join you today. The theme of the 2010 Census is "It's In Our Hands." And so it is in your hands to continue a fine tradition of excellence as you launch into the next fifty years. Happy golden anniversary to all of you here at the National Processing Center and the Jeffersonville and Louisville area communities!