

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) today reminded seniors to file an income tax return to receive their tax rebate.

Seniors on a limited income who don't normally file a federal tax return must do so this year to receive their economic stimulus check from the IRS. The Congressman reached out to seniors at the Jefferson Center in Sarasota to ensure they knew what steps to follow to receive their economic stimulus check from the IRS.

"I want to ensure that every senior who is eligible for a check from the IRS gets their money," said Buchanan. "Many people who don't normally file a tax return may not realize they need to file a 2007 tax return in order to receive a tax rebate. The process is easy and a check will soon be on its way to provide an extra helping hand."

According to the IRS, millions of Americans who are not required to file federal tax returns may qualify for a \$300 payment (\$600 for couples) if they have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income. That includes any combination of earned income, such as wages, combat pay and benefits from Social Security, Veterans' Affairs and Railroad Retirement.

The Congressman noted that there have been recent reports of scam artists posing as IRS agents on the phone and via e-mail seeking individual's personal bank account information.

"No one from the IRS will be calling or e-mailing seniors for information," said Buchanan. "The only way to receive your money is by filing a tax return. Folks should not give out any personal or financial information over the phone or e-mail if someone inquires about their IRS check. By exercising a little caution, individuals can protect themselves from scams and fraud."

Buchanan fought to provide much-needed relief to approximately 20 million low-income seniors living primarily on Social Security by including them among those who qualify for a tax rebate. The new law will provide \$300 tax rebates to these low-income older Americans.

Starting in May, the IRS will begin issuing economic stimulus payments based on 2007 tax returns. The IRS strongly recommends that seniors file no later than April 15, 2008; however, the final deadline for filing is October 15, 2008.