



Congressman Bud Cramer

March 2004
E-Newsletter

It has been a busy month here in Washington. So far in March, I have been focused on the hearings of the Appropriations Committee. During these hearings, government leaders come before my Committee to discuss their plans and answer questions regarding their funding. Two of the officials that were before the committee this month were FBI Director Robert Mueller and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Later in the spring, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi and NASA's Administrator Sean O'Keefe will come before my Committee. These hearings give me the opportunity to ask questions that are important to the people in North Alabama as well as the nation. While it's been busy in the Nation's Capital, I have also been in North Alabama working on economic development issues. Two of these events are highlighted below. During the upcoming months, please visit my website, <http://cramer.house.gov>, for updated news and information from Washington and the 5th District.

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Washington Update

Congressman Cramer announced this month that the Economic Development Administration has approved the conference center lease between the City of Florence and Alabama Real Estate Holdings.

Congressman Cramer secured language in the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act that led to the Secretary of Commerce approving the lease. This will save the City of Florence \$464,000. "This approval enables the City of Florence to use valuable funds for other important community needs," said Cramer.

The House also passed the Broadcasters Decency Act this month. This bill increases fines and penalties to radio and television operators that broadcast obscene and indecent material. Violators can be fined up to \$500,000 per incident under the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. Congressman Cramer was a co-sponsor of this legislation.

District Update

On March 1st, Congressman Cramer met with officials from across North Alabama to discuss economic development opportunities. The officials involved were members of the North Alabama Industrial Development Association, which is comprised of economic development officials from across the Tennessee Valley. Congressman Cramer has been personally involved in the recruitment of numerous companies to North Alabama since his election in 1990.

On March 9th, Congressman Cramer joined Governor Riley and other officials to meet with representatives from NASA Headquarters. The NASA delegation was led by Deputy Administrator Fred Gregory who came to Huntsville to view the site proposed for the NASA Shared Services Center. Congressman Cramer has been a leading advocate for North Alabama during the NSSC selection period.



Cramer and economic development officials from across North Alabama.