



Congressman Bud Cramer

July 2003
E-Newsletter

This week we celebrate the 227th Anniversary of our nation's Independence Day. We should all take time to thank the men and women of our Armed Forces and remember our veterans who have fought for our freedom over the years. We are fortunate to live in a free country. I wish each of you and your families a safe and fun Fourth of July celebration this year!

Bud Cramer

Washington Update



The Asbury United Methodist Church Choir, a group of 130 9th – 12th grade North Alabama students came to Washington in June to sing at the Lincoln Memorial.

On June 18th, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, a bill introduced by Rep. Cramer and Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R-WA) that permanently repeals the death tax. Cramer has been working to repeal this tax, which places an unfair burden on family-owned small businesses and farms, since he came to Congress in 1991.

Congressman Cramer has joined the full House Appropriations Committee to consider seven of the thirteen annual appropriations bills. Two of these bills, Homeland Security and Military Construction, have already been approved by the House of Representatives. The other bills should come before the full House in the coming weeks. Included in the Appropriations bills are important projects for North Alabama including over \$34 million that will impact Redstone Arsenal and the North Alabama defense community as well as a study to designate the Muscle Shoals area as a National Heritage Area, making the region eligible for tourism and economic development funding.

Knowing the importance of our veterans, Cramer signed a discharge petition that would bring "concurrent receipt" legislation to the floor of the House. This bill would allow veterans to receive their disability and retirement pay at the same time. He is one of 201 Members of Congress who have signed the petition, which requires only 17 more names.

Other legislation the House of Representatives approved in June:

- June 10th – Bill to ban financial entities from processing bets illegally made over the Internet.
- June 11th – Reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration.
- June 17th – Keeping Children and Families Safe Act - reauthorizes child abuse prevention and treatment programs, family violence prevention and services, and helps increase adoptions of foster children.
- June 25th – Intelligence Authorization – provides funds for intelligence agencies including the CIA, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency. Cramer serves on the House Intelligence Committee that has oversight of these agencies.

District Update

The National Children's Advocacy Center will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, July 12th. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., you and your family are invited to the "street festival" and ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00 at the new NCAC headquarters located in Huntsville at the corner of Meridian and Pratt. In 1985, Cramer began the first CAC in Huntsville, which now serves as the model for over 500 centers across the nation. CACs are child-friendly places where child abuse victims and their families can receive help. To find out more about the NCAC, visit www.nationalcac.org.



Cramer also announced that people can now sign up for the National "Do Not Call" list. On February 13th, the House passed a bill that will prevent telemarketers from calling consumers who sign up for the "Do Not Call" registry. On July 7th, citizens can call 1-888-382-1222 to add their name to the list or sign up now online at www.donotcall.gov.