



Congressman Bud Cramer

December 2005

E-Newsletter

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This year brought good news to North Alabama from the BRAC recommendations, the Marshall Space Flight Center's newly assigned exploration roles, along with economic development celebrations for Toyota, the Hudson-Alpha Institute, and North American Lighting. Additionally, Congress has approved funding for projects across the region that will help us make North Alabama an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. In 2005, our area also did an outstanding job supporting our neighbors along the gulf coast. We offered our prayers, opened our hearts and communities for hurricane Katrina victims. I would like to thank everyone in North Alabama for making 2005 a wonderful year. May you and your family have a very Happy New Year.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

With the passage of the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Bill, the U.S. House of Representatives has approved all eleven appropriations conference reports for FY 2006. The final Defense bill provides funding for our nation's military, the ongoing War on Terrorism, and hurricane disaster assistance and relief. Representative Cramer, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also announced that the Defense Appropriations bill included funding for programs and projects managed in North Alabama. He said, "The Department of Defense has long looked to Redstone and all of North Alabama to provide the tools and resources our soldiers need to achieve their missions and protect themselves in battle. This funding will allow our community to build on our strengths for the future."

For information on all of the FY 2006 Appropriations bills, visit Representative Cramer's website at: <http://cramer.house.gov>.

The House also unanimously approved the conference report for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005. The final report authorizes a total of \$36.6 billion for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 for the space agency and its programs. The final NASA Authorization bill fully endorses the Agency's space exploration vision, which includes Marshall's recently assigned roles in the Crew Launch Vehicle and the Robotic and Lunar Exploration program. It directs NASA to carry out a balanced set of programs in human space flight, space science, earth science, and aeronautics. The conference report also prevents NASA from performing any reductions in force (RIF) before March 16, 2007.

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Washington Update Continued

Also this month, the House approved legislation that would reauthorize the U.S. Department of Justice and its programs through Fiscal Year 2009. The final bill includes provisions that would reauthorize and reform many competitive grant programs that support law enforcement officials in our community. The DOJ Authorization Bill authorizes \$1 billion each year for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and \$20 million for the school-based Gang Resistance Education and Training Project. The legislation extends through FY 2009 the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, and authorizes \$5 million to help law enforcement combat organized retail theft. Cramer said, "These successful grant programs have provided much needed support to community programs across North Alabama. I'm pleased my colleagues joined me in supporting its renewal."

The House also approved legislation cosponsored by Representative Cramer that directs the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish research programs to identify the harmful chemicals associated with meth labs, to discover the impact exposure to these chemicals have, and to identify any residual health effects left behind from methamphetamine labs. It also creates guidelines for the clean up and decontamination of contained meth lab sites. Additionally, it requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop and standardize methamphetamine detection methods.

District Update

Pictured on the right, Representative Cramer joined other Alabama officials this month to announce that North American Lighting will build a manufacturing facility at the Northwest Alabama Airport Industrial Park. The Muscle Shoals facility will produce tail lamps and is expected to create 300-400 new jobs. Representative Cramer helped lead efforts to recruit North American Lighting to Northwest Alabama. Cramer commended the entire Shoals region for its work together on this project and attributed the announcement to the area's cooperative efforts. He said, "The State of Alabama is developing a niche in the automotive industry and I am pleased that the Shoals area is joining in these efforts. I thank North American Lighting for its confidence in our workforce and in the future of our community."



Representative Cramer also hosted a luncheon this month to address members of the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. Cramer hosted this event to update Chamber members on his Intelligence and Appropriations Committee assignments, economic development efforts, and other issues important to North Alabama.