



## Congressman Bud Cramer

July 2004  
E-Newsletter

This month, all of us remembered and celebrated the birth of our great nation. Two-hundred and twenty-eight years ago, our forefathers established the freedoms that all Americans enjoy. We must not forget that right now there are still troops fighting overseas and protecting our freedoms against those who wish to attack our nation. This month, Congress approved the final Defense Appropriations Bill and it provides critical funding to help support and protect our troops. I am proud of each and every one of our soldiers overseas and I will continue to do everything that I can to ensure that the men and women of our armed services have the best technologies and resources they need to accomplish their missions and to protect their safety.

*Bud Cramer*

### Washington Update

The U.S. House of Representatives is continuing its work on the thirteen Appropriations Bills for the upcoming year. The Appropriations Committee, of which Congressman Cramer is a member, has approved all thirteen appropriations bills, ten of which have been passed by the full House. In addition, the Defense Appropriations Bill is complete and is awaiting the President's signature. For more information and updates on the appropriations bills please visit the Congressman's website at <http://cramer.house.gov>.

- The final Defense Appropriations Bill includes \$417.5 billion dollars for Department of Defense operations and programs. This funding provides \$10 billion for missile defense programs, which includes \$4.6 billion for the ground-based midcourse defense program. The bill also includes \$498 million for boost phase anti-missile systems and \$944 million for the terminal defense segment, Theater High Altitude Area Defense.
- The Military Construction Appropriations Act has been approved by the House of Representatives. This bill includes \$19.56 million dollars for the Phase II construction of the Von Braun Complex at Redstone Arsenal. Once complete, Phase II of the Von Braun Complex will be the home of the DOD's Missile Defense Agency's activities in North Alabama.
- The Transportation-Treasury Appropriations Bill has been approved by the House Appropriations Committee. This bill includes \$11 million dollars for the construction of the new Air Traffic Control Tower at the Huntsville International Airport.
- The VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Bill has been approved by the House Appropriations Committee. This bill appropriates funding for NASA, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additionally, this bill provides much needed support for programs that improve North Alabama's water and wastewater systems and other infrastructure needs.

### District Update

This month, Congressman Cramer and officials from the U.S. Gypsum Company announced a \$25 million expansion of U.S. Gypsum's Bridgeport, Alabama facility. In April, Cramer went to Chicago to meet with U.S. Gypsum officials to discuss the advantages of expanding its Bridgeport facility. The Bridgeport facility was completed in 1999 and currently employs 180 people.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Cramer joined NASA officials for the ribbon cutting of the Marshall Space Flight Center Propulsion Research Laboratory. Cramer played a key role in securing \$32 million for the construction of the PRL through his seat on the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds NASA and its programs. The PRL is a state-of-the-art facility where scientists and engineers from NASA, the federal government, academia, and industry will pool their skills and expertise to perform cutting-edge research that will improve our nation's access to and capabilities in space.

Also this month, Congressman Cramer joined officials from the City of Florence to announce funding for the Canal/Jones Hollow Interceptor Sewer project. Cramer secured \$1 million in the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act.