



# Congressman Bud Cramer

September 2008 E-Newsletter

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This month has been a busy one in the Congress. We've approved a number of bills that are of great importance to North Alabama, including defense appropriations, funding for veterans and for BRAC, the NASA reauthorization and a resolution honoring the TVA for 75 years of service.

*Bud Cramer*

## News From Washington

On September 24, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, which included important funding for North Alabama.

The bill appropriated \$8.765 billion to implement the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The Pentagon will direct these funds to Redstone Arsenal for use by agencies such as the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), United States Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC), and the Rotary Wing Center (RWC).

**"I am pleased that Congress is continuing to keep the 2005 BRAC decisions funded and on time," Cramer said. "I will continue to work with members of the Alabama delegation to keep BRAC on track at Redstone Arsenal."**

H.R. 2638 also provided \$47.6 billion to the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans medical care, additional claims processors, and facility improvements. The bill also increases the travel reimbursement rate nearly 46 percent from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile.

The Veterans Health Administration will receive \$41 billion, including \$250 million to improve access to medical care for veterans in rural areas.

## Financial Rescue Legislation

On September 29, 2008, Rep. Cramer voted in support of the Financial Rescue Legislation. To read the Congressman's statement outlining why he supported this legislation, please click here or visit <http://cramer.house.gov>.

## News From the Fifth District

On September 29, Rep. Cramer was honored by the Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce with their "Friend to the Chamber Award." The award was presented at the chamber's annual dinner.

**"Throughout my 18 years in Congress, I've always known that I can depend on the Jackson County Chamber to help me with projects that are important for our area's growth," Cramer said. "I am proud of how the people of Jackson County have worked together to increase the area's opportunities for economic growth."**

Cramer has been involved in numerous Jackson County economic development projects since coming to Congress in 1991, such as the U.S. Gypsum's wall board facility in Bridgeport and the community's Impact Learning Center. Additionally, Cramer secured funds for the Jackson County Industrial Park, which, when completed, will boost economic development across Jackson County and North Alabama.

**For more information on these and other news items, please visit: <http://cramer.house.gov>**