



Congressman Bud Cramer

May 2004
E-Newsletter

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Many will gather this Memorial Day for activities with family and friends. However, we should not forget that Memorial Day is a day for all of us to remember and honor those who gave their life to protect our freedom and defeat tyranny around the world. This year, Memorial Day will be a special day for many of North Alabama's Veterans, as the National World War II Memorial is officially dedicated in Washington, D.C. World War II veterans sacrificed a great deal to aid in the allied war effort, many of whom lost their lives. This monument is a fitting tribute to them and long overdue. Their spirit and courage lives on in today's servicemen and women who continue to serve our nation overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. This Memorial Day, I hope that all of us remember our troops and pray for their safe return while we honor those who have given their lives in war.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

Congressman Cramer encourages all of North Alabama's veterans to take part in the "Veterans History Project" through the Library of Congress to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped histories from America's war veterans. If you are a veteran you can participate in the "Veterans History Project" by visiting the project website at <http://www.loc.gov/vets> or by contacting one of North Alabama's "Veterans History Project" partners to set up a time to be interviewed for the Library of Congress.

The North Alabama partners are:

- The Alabama Veteran's Museum and Archives in Athens..... (256) 771-7578
- The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.....(256) 764-6564
- The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library..... (256) 532-5947
- The Madison African-American Alliance Group..... (256) 430-5790
- Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville.....(256) 883-3737

This month, Congressman Cramer hosted the annual Washington Update with the Chambers of Commerce from Decatur-Morgan County and Huntsville-Madison County. This year, Cramer asked Dr. John H. Marburger, Science Advisor to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to be the keynote speaker. Dr. Marburger talked about the plan to return Americans to the moon and onto Mars, and the President's priorities for science and technology policies. Chamber members also heard from House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), and Ranking Member of the House Science Committee Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.).

On May 20th, CourtTV presented Congressman Cramer with the first ever "Keep America Safe Award." Cramer was recognized for his work as co-chairman of the Congressional Missing & Exploited Children's Caucus and for his leadership in raising awareness of missing and exploited children. The caucus works in coordination with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Washington, D.C.-based organization that helps communities locate missing children, and teaches communities how to protect children from predators.

Also this month, the House approved three tax relief bills that would provide permanent relief to numerous individuals and families. H.R. 4275 extends the 10 percent tax rate bracket. H.R. 4227 ensures that taxpayers currently exempted from the Alternative Minimum Tax continue to be exempted through 2005. Finally, H.R. 4359 makes permanent the \$1000 child tax credit and increases the income level limit under which families are able to claim the credit. Cramer said, "By making these tax relief measures permanent, more individuals and families will be able to keep more of their money to use on things that are important to them."



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District Update

Pictured on the right, Cramer joined Senator Richard Shelby for the dedication of the expanded runway at the Huntsville International Airport. “Our international airport has always been a big selling point for new industries,” said Cramer. “The expanded runway will allow larger planes to take off with full loads and fly nonstop to locations halfway around the world. This will go a long way to help us recruit business and expand tourism throughout North Alabama.”



On May 25, Cramer presented funding to Morgan County and the cities of Decatur and Hartselle from the National Park Service. The funding was awarded through the Land and Water Conservation Grant Program.

- Morgan County received \$40,440 to build a football and soccer facility at Charles Sparkman Park.
- The City of Hartselle received \$81,250 to help purchase the remaining land needed to build a soccer field adjacent to John Sparkman Park.
- The City of Decatur received \$100,000 to help build a handicapped accessible, zero-depth splashpad complete with dozens of jets at Delano Park. The splashpad will be constructed in the footprint of the park’s original wading pool that was built by the Civilian Workers Administration in 1933 and demolished in the 1970s.



Pictured on the left, Cramer helped Radiance Technologies open its new facility located at Cummings Research Park in Huntsville. Radiance Technologies began in 1999 and has become a leader in technological solutions for the Army and Intelligence community. The new building will combine all Radiance employees throughout the four Huntsville locations into one central facility. Cramer said, “Companies like Radiance Technologies are the bread and butter of this community, and what makes this community so unique.”

Also this month, Cramer presented a \$50,000 check and a flag flown over the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. to students at the Huntsville Achievement School. The Huntsville Achievement School is a ten-month academic program for children who are diagnosed with learning problems. Cramer secured this funding in the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

On May 25, Cramer presented \$75,000 to the Children’s Museum of the Shoals. Cramer secured this funding in the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act for a Native American exhibit study. The Children’s Museum plans to open an exhibit that will tell the story of Te-lah-nay, a young Native American girl who took the Trail of Tears from Lauderdale County to Oklahoma but later, returned to North Alabama, remarkably, walking home alone. “I’m glad that we have chosen her story to honor and educate future generations of children,” said Cramer. “They will learn about Te-lah-nay’s history and about the traditions of the Native American people that came from our region.”

Cramer also helped officials at BizTech Technology Incubator open the doors to its new facility. Cramer secured \$1.5 million in the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act to help BizTech complete its facility renovations. Opened in 1997, BizTech is a high-tech business incubator that helps small high-tech companies develop emerging technologies for the global marketplace.