



# Congressman Bud Cramer

August 2003  
E-Newsletter

My two committees – the House Intelligence Committee and House Appropriations Committee – have kept me busy during July. I traveled to Iraq with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee and we began our open hearings into the intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq and the issue of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Also this month, the Appropriations Committee “marked up” all thirteen Appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2004 and the full House has passed eleven of these bills, including measures that fund the Department of Defense and NASA.

*Bud Cramer*

## Washington Update

The House of Representatives passed eleven of thirteen Appropriations bills for FY 2004. Highlights include:

➤VA/HUD and Independent Agencies:

- Funds NASA at \$15.4 billion. The Gehman Commission will release its findings of the Columbia accident investigation in August, after which the Appropriations Committee will readdress NASA’s budget needs.
- Provides \$150,000 to renovate planetariums on Monte Sano Mountain and at Muscle Shoals Middle School.
- Provides \$700,000 to help with water and sewer needs at the Mallard Fox-West Industrial Park in Moulton.

➤Department of Defense:

- Provides \$369 billion for national defense programs, including significant increases for missile defense and full funding for the Midcourse segment. Military personnel receives \$98 billion, including a 4.1% average pay raise.
- The bill also funds several projects that will have a major impact on North Alabama’s defense community.

➤Department of Interior:

- Directs the National Park Service to conduct a heritage study of Northwest Alabama. This is the first step for the Shoals to become a national heritage area, making it eligible for tourism and economic development funding.

Also this month, the House of Representatives passed legislation allowing individuals, pharmacists and wholesalers in the United States to import prescription drugs approved by the FDA from other industrialized nations. Americans pay anywhere from 30% to 300% more for their drugs than consumers in foreign countries. This bill establishes procedures to ensure that the drugs imported will meet FDA quality standards for safety and effectiveness.

## District Update

On July 30, Congressman Cramer hosted his annual Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Washington Update luncheon. Cramer discussed issues such as intelligence and homeland security, missile defense, NASA, and economic development in North Alabama. Cramer also discussed the upcoming 2005 round of BRAC. “We have a tremendous story to tell during BRAC and I will continue to tell it. We have a great team in place working daily on the local, state, and federal level,” Cramer said. Also discussed during the lunch, Cramer discussed his recent Intelligence Committee trip to Iraq and the Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations process.



Cramer toured the proposed new location for Parents and Children Together, or PACT, in Decatur in July. PACT wants to relocate their offices to the old Baugh-Wiley-Smith Hospital. PACT works to prevent child abuse in the North Alabama community through public awareness, parenting classes, and other family services.

Cramer also visited SCA Tissue’s Barton operations in the Shoals and discussed economic development in Northwest Alabama. Cramer said, “Our local, state and federal leaders work hard to make sure we’re ready for good companies like SCA Tissue. Every new job we bring to the Shoals means that another hard working person in our community can get back to work and provide for their families.”



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### E-Newsletter NCAC Supplement

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer (D-AL) celebrated the grand opening of the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC), which he founded as District Attorney in 1985, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and family festival.

"I am so pleased to be cutting this ribbon," said Cramer at the ceremony. "The years of teamwork between the National Children's Advocacy Center, business and government leaders, and this generous community have paid off – and we're now at the finish line. I am extremely proud of the fact that the program we started here in Alabama now serves as the model for 500 other programs across the United States – including more than 20 here in Alabama. Today marks a milestone in child safety that will not soon be forgotten."

The new NCAC four-building facility, located at the corner of Pratt Avenue and Meridian Street in Huntsville, serves as the national headquarters for training, research, education and outreach. Child abuse professionals from all over the country will come to the Huntsville campus for training and other educational programs. 52,000 professionals from every state and 18 countries have already received training in Huntsville.

The celebration that took place included a street festival with free refreshments, games, singing, clowns, face painting, tours of the facility, and other family activities. At 11:00 a.m., Cramer joined NCAC and other local officials to cut the ribbon on the new 45,000 square foot campus.

The NCAC complex consists of four buildings:

The Children's Building -- a child-friendly place where social workers, law enforcement, and legal representatives will interview children. It also has a medical exam room and areas for treatment.

The Team Building -- where social workers, law enforcement investigators, assistant District Attorneys, and other support staff have offices.

The Community Services Building -- houses the center's administrative and program staff.

The Training Center -- where training sessions will be held for local, national, and international child abuse professionals.

