



Congressman Bud Cramer

February 2004

E-Newsletter

North Alabama lost two outstanding people this month with the passing of Eunice Merrell of Madison County and Binford Turner of Limestone County. Eunice, known affectionately as Aunt Eunice, was the proprietor and host of Eunice's Country Kitchen in Huntsville. There you could find friendly faces and good down-home cooking. Aunt Eunice was also a tireless worker for the Arthritis foundation and a close friend and advisor to everyone that she met. Binford's legacy will be his dedication to the community and the numerous civic projects he spearheaded. Most notably, he was the driving force behind the countywide water and sewer system in Limestone County. Both of these individuals helped establish North Alabama as a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. They will be fondly remembered.

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Washington Update

President Bush released his fiscal year 2005 budget request this month. Congressman Cramer announced that the President included \$11 million for the construction of the new air traffic control tower at the Huntsville International Airport. "I have worked hard with the administration to make sure that the Huntsville International Airport Tower is a high priority," said Cramer. "This new tower is something that I have been working on for some time because it is so important to the future of our area."

This month marks the one year anniversary of the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy. On February 3rd, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution paying tribute to the seven heroic astronauts who lost their lives onboard Columbia.

On February 11th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Social Security Protection Act. This act includes numerous provisions that will defend Social Security recipients from fraud including fines to those that perpetrate fraud or misuse benefits. It also raises standards and improves the monitoring of organizations that help manage social security benefits for seniors. Cramer said, "Social Security is one of our most treasured benefits and we must continue to protect its credibility."

District Update

This month, Congressman Cramer helped two North Alabama counties improve their water systems. On February 9th, Cramer presented a \$100,000 check to the City of Athens. On February 19th, he presented a \$400,000 check to the Jackson County Commission and a \$550,000 check to the Waterworks Board of Section and Dutton. Congressman Cramer secured these funds in the FY'04 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

On February 13th, Congressman Cramer joined officials from Huntsville at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Huntsville Transportation Hub. This state-of-the-art facility is the new home of the City of Huntsville Parking and Public Transportation Department and the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Congressman Cramer secured federal funding for the construction of this facility.