



Congressman Bud Cramer

February 2003
E-Newsletter

Thank you for signing up for my electronic newsletter! Since we began the 108th Congress on January 7, 2003, the House of Representatives has been busy organizing for the new Congress and voting on several important bills for our nation as well as for the North Alabama community. I hope this monthly newsletter will be an informative means of letting you know what's going on both in Washington and in Alabama's 5th Congressional district. For more information on these and other issues, please visit my website at www.house.gov/cramer.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update

On January 7th, the first day of the 108th Congress, Cramer joined Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R-WA) to again introduce legislation that would **permanently repeal the estate tax**, H.R. 57. Eliminating this tax has been a priority of Rep. Cramer's since he first came to Congress in 1991. Cramer believes that today's death tax places an unfair burden on family farms and small businesses, which are at the heart of our nation's economy.

Congressman Cramer attended President Bush's **State of the Union** address on Tuesday, January 28th. Cramer commented, "President Bush expressed his strong support and bold plans for protecting our nation from all threats. I was pleased to hear the President's support tonight for our nation's defense against ballistic missiles...I'm pleased that the President is continuing to support diplomatic efforts to get Iraq to disarm, but if Saddam Hussein refuses to cooperate, then we will have no choice but to use force to disarm him...I agree with President Bush that Congress must to act swiftly to provide seniors with better health care and prescription drug coverage... In order to create jobs and strengthen the economy, Congress must pass some form of an economic stimulus plan, and I'm looking forward to addressing these proposals in the upcoming weeks."

Congressman Cramer commented on the **Space Shuttle Columbia accident** that occurred on February 1st: "At this time of profound tragedy for our nation, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the Columbia astronauts. This was an incredibly brave group of men and women, and this is an enormous loss for our nation, as well as the people of Israel and India...The brave crew of Columbia gave their lives performing a mission of science focused on improving our lives back here on Earth. We must cherish and learn from their sacrifice and continue their work. These seven astronauts did not die in vain, and our nation's exploration of space will go on."

District Update

On January 30th, Cramer helped dedicate the new **Huntsville Weather Forecasting Office**. In 2002, Cramer secured \$3 million for North Alabama to have its very own Weather Forecasting Office. With the Tennessee Valley's history of tornadoes and unique weather patterns, Cramer believes the people of North Alabama deserve to have a WFO in their own back yard to help protect them and their loved ones during severe weather.



Congressman Cramer announces that the U.S. Small Business Administration has designated **Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, and Madison County** small non-farm agriculture-dependent businesses eligible for low interest disaster loans due to losses caused by severe weather. For more information, call the SBA at 1-800-359-2227.