



## Congressman Bud Cramer

February 2005

E-Newsletter

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I have often told you about my position on the Appropriations Committee and how it helps me meet the unique needs of our community. This month, the committee unveiled a reorganization plan that would reduce the number of subcommittees from thirteen to ten. After much speculation on which subcommittees would be eliminated, the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies, the Legislative Branch, and District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittees were cut. I am pleased with my new subcommittee assignments and believe that North Alabama has much to gain from this reorganization. I picked up seats on the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee as well as the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. I have always believed that my seat on this committee gives me a strong voice for North Alabama and these subcommittees will allow me to remain an advocate for North Alabama's interests on issues ranging from NASA, Veterans Affairs, and BRAC to law enforcement grants and child abuse. For the most up-to-date information regarding current events in Washington and Alabama, please visit my website,

<http://cramer.house.gov>.

*Bud Cramer*

### Washington Update

This month, Representative Cramer and Representative Kenny Hulshof (R-Mo.) introduced legislation that would permanently repeal the Estate or "Death Tax." Cramer has introduced similar pieces of legislation in the 107th and 108th Congresses with former U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.). Each of these bills were approved by the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support, but stalled in the U.S. Senate.

Also this month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation cosponsored by Representative Cramer that would assure fairer outcomes of class action lawsuits. Earlier this year, President Bush invited Cramer and other Members of Congress to the White House to discuss details of this legislation. The approved bill contains reforms to increase federal court jurisdiction over large, multi-state class action lawsuits while ensuring that local disputes remain in state court. Cramer said, "Class Action litigation is an important part of our legal system that has helped a number of injured parties, but standards must be put in place to keep the system in check. This legislation establishes guidelines and limits that will hopefully help discourage frivolous lawsuits."

The House also passed a resolution honoring the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in creating an integrated United States Air Force. Congressman Cramer was an original cosponsor of this resolution. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American fighter pilots who fought during World War II and trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Between May of 1943 and June of 1945, the Tuskegee Airmen flew 15,533 "bomber escort" missions. Remarkably, none of the bombers escorted by the airmen were lost to enemy fire.

Representative Cramer gave the keynote address at the "Champions of Children" Awards Dinner hosted by the National Children's Alliance. The "Champions of Children" event is held each year to honor individuals or organizations for their outstanding work helping Children. Cramer is the founder of the first Children's Advocacy Center and the National Children's Alliance.



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### District Update



Pictured on the left, The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) chose Representative Cramer to receive its “Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence.” Cramer received this award in a ceremony hosted by NAM, the Business Council of Alabama, Toyota, and Wise Alloys. NAM recognized Cramer for his support of policies important to American Manufacturing during the 108th Congress. This is the fourth time that Representative Cramer has received this award.

Representative Cramer also presented \$98,500 this month to help establish a Children’s Advocacy Center in Morgan County. Children’s Advocacy Centers provide a unique multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases that help minimize the trauma suffered by victims. Cramer said, “Bob Burrell (Morgan County District Attorney) and the local community have done a great job laying the groundwork for this center and I wanted to help move it forward.”

Representative Cramer is continuing his fight against methamphetamine abuse in North Alabama. This month visited the Shoals and presented a total of \$100,000 to help the Colbert and Lauderdale County Sheriff’s departments curb methamphetamine abuse in Northwest Alabama. Methamphetamines are a highly addictive and insidious drug. Meth can be cooked with ease with a makeshift lab in a garage, home, warehouse, hotel room, and is often made in a car or van. There is no medication to treat meth addiction and few meth-specific programs in the United States. Cramer said, “I am always looking for ways on the Federal level to provide law enforcement with the resources it needs to fight this epidemic. It is important that our law enforcement officers are well informed and protected against the hazards posed by meth production.”

Pictured on the right, Representative Cramer presented \$500,000 to the City of Huntsville for its Five Points Improvement Project. The funding is being used to provide landscaping, safer pedestrian and vehicular access, and the redesigning of a park on one of the five points. He said, “Five Points is a beautiful area with a unique character that cannot be lost. I am very proud that this community has worked so hard to help revitalize Five Points to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy this area.”



Representative Cramer is helping the City of Madison by providing \$1.5 million to help Madison widen Balch Road from two to five lanes. “A wider Balch Road will increase safety, shorten commutes, and ease congestion for the residents, families, and students that use Balch Road on a daily basis,” said Cramer.

Representative Cramer presented \$97,000 to help Athens State University restore the historic McCandless Hall. McCandless Hall, which was originally constructed in 1914, is part of Athens State University’s Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.