



Congressman Bud Cramer

April 2006
E-Newsletter

I recently had an opportunity to meet with an individual from North Alabama that played a significant role in the development of the Space Shuttle. He was one of many former NASA employees in Washington this month to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Shuttle launch. In 1981, the Marshall Space Flight Center led the development and implementation of the propulsion system used on the Shuttle. Today, key propulsion ideas from the Space Shuttle program are being used in the design of the new crew launch vehicle. As NASA moves forward, the expertise and knowledge gained at Marshall and across the space program will be invaluable to the development of our nation's next generation launch vehicles. I congratulate all of the employees at Marshall and across NASA on the Shuttle's silver anniversary and wish them the very best of luck as we look to our new missions.

Bud Cramer

Washington Update



Pictured on the left, Representative Cramer welcomed members from the Decatur-Morgan County and Huntsville-Madison Chambers of Commerce for the 2006 Washington Update. Cramer hosts this bipartisan event annually with Representative Robert Aderholt. This year's featured speaker was NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin. He spoke about the future of the space agency and the Marshall Space Flight Center's continued role in the space exploration vision. Chamber members also heard remarks from House Majority Leader John Boehner and Representative Jane Harman, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

During a meeting of the House Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Cramer received commitments from the Department of the Army that North Alabama will gain the missions and responsibilities that were included in the BRAC recommendations. After the hearing, Cramer said, "Given today's tight budget environment, I wanted to make absolutely sure that even if we encounter potential challenges, North Alabama's gains will be completed."

Representative Cramer also announced this month that the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Fiscal Year 2007 Intelligence Authorization Bill. Representative Cramer is a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Ranking Democrat of the Intelligence Subcommittee on Oversight. During consideration of the bill Cramer said, "This is a good bill for North Alabama and it continues to invest in an analytical initiative that draws upon the expertise at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center in Huntsville."

District Update

Pictured on the right, Representative Cramer joined Shoals area leaders to discuss the progress of the North American Lighting site and other economic development projects in the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport Industrial Park. During his visit to the Shoals, Cramer commended the area leaders for their economic development efforts saying, "In recent years, the Shoals community has come together like none other and has put aside county and city lines for economic development."

