



## Congressman Bud Cramer

April 2005  
E-Newsletter

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This month the U.S. House of Representatives approved my legislation to permanently repeal the Estate or "Death Tax." I have introduced similar legislation in previous years. These were approved in the House, but were not passed in the Senate. In 2001, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act was signed into law and provided temporarily relief of the death tax. Permanent death tax relief needs to be enacted before the temporarily relief expires. My legislation will provide this permanent relief for numerous family farms and small businesses. As the cofounder of the End-the-Death-Tax Congressional Caucus, I will keep working to end this unfair tax once and for all. I am pleased that my House colleagues have once again supported this bill and I hope the Senate will consider it soon. As always, for the most up-to-date information on this and other pieces of legislation, please visit my website, <http://www.cramer.house.gov>.

*Bud Cramer*

### Washington Update

Earlier this month, Representative Cramer hosted the first meeting of the Congressional Appalachian Caucus with Representative Bob Ney of Ohio. Cramer and Ney are cochairmen of the 24 member bipartisan caucus. The meeting was held to learn more about the issues facing the Appalachian region. Alabama is one of thirteen states that make up the region. Anne Pope, Federal Co-Chairperson for the Appalachian Regional Commission was the keynote speaker. "North Alabama has benefited a great deal from the economic development and infrastructure programs that Congress has enacted for areas in the Appalachian region," said Cramer. "The purpose of this Caucus is to protect and strengthen these programs for future generations."

In a meeting in his Washington office this month, Representative Cramer voiced his concerns about NASA to new NASA Administrator Michael Griffin and urged him to define a strong role for the Marshall Space Flight Center. "This meeting was a continuation of the dialogue that began on the very day that the Administrator was nominated," said Cramer. "It was a good meeting and he told me that he wanted to partner with me to build a stronger NASA. He also said that the vision for space exploration will be good for Marshall."

Administrator Griffin assured Cramer that Marshall will continue to play a large role in NASA's future. He said, "I need Marshall going forward to allow a new generation of crew transportation vehicles to be developed and to return to the moon. Marshall is important to me, it is crucial to me. I cannot implement NASA's plans without Marshall and I will not diminish the role of Marshall."



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### District Update

This month, Representative Cramer presented officials from Limestone County and the City of Athens with a total of \$2 million for the construction of an interchange at Interstate-65 and Huntsville-Browns Ferry Road (Limestone County Road 24). The funding was included in two separate pieces of legislation, the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act and the House-passed Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). Cramer is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for providing funds for all areas of the federal government as well as vital programs that help meet the needs of the nation.

Representative Cramer joined Alabama Governor Bob Riley this month to officially dedicate the Walls of Jericho. The property surrounding the Walls was recently purchased through the Alabama Land Conservatory and the Forever Wild Land Trust. Cramer said, “The Walls of Jericho and the surrounding Cumberland Mountains are more than just a land preserve – they represent a significant part of our regional and cultural history. This is a very serene and beautiful place and I’m glad that the Forever Wild Land Trust has acquired it so everyone has an opportunity to take in its beauty.”



Cramer and Alabama Governor Bob Riley talk about the Walls of Jericho with a North Alabama visitor to the site.

Representative Cramer and officials from the City of Huntsville broke ground this month on a new park outside of the Nationals Children’s Advocacy Center in Huntsville. The park will be named in honor of Cramer. Once completed, Cramer Park will include picnic tables, a playground, and a greenway.

Representative Cramer presented a total of \$1 million to officials from the Jackson County Commission, the City of Scottsboro, and the Town of Hollywood. The funding will be used to construct an access road to the proposed Jackson County Industrial Park. Cramer secured this funding in the recently House-passed version of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2004, Cramer has secured \$1.85 million for the Jackson County Industrial Park. That number includes \$850,000 to help expand water and sewer lines to the park. “I am excited about this project because I know how important the Jackson County Industrial Park will be to Northeast Alabama,” said Cramer. “Once completed, this park will help attract a new generation of businesses to our area.”