



# Congressman Bud Cramer

January 2007 E-Newsletter

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On January 4, Congress began its 110<sup>th</sup> Session and for the first time since 1995, the Democratic party holds a majority of members in both the House and the Senate. In the 110th Congress, I will continue to serve on the House Appropriations Committee and the House Intelligence Committee. In addition, my seniority puts me among the top twenty percent of House members. I am especially excited about my new Appropriations Subcommittee assignment, the Subcommittee on Defense. This powerful subcommittee determines funding levels for the U.S. Military, its programs, systems, and acquisitions. I am also a new member of the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee as well as the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee. As a member of these subcommittee, I am now in an even stronger position to fight for North Alabama.

*Bud Cramer*

## News From Washington

This month, the House of Representatives approved legislation establishing common sense budgeting rules advocated by Representative Cramer. It includes Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO), which requires Congress to prioritize budget items each year by offsetting spending programs. Cramer said, *"It is vital that Congress improves its stewardship of the taxpayer's money, so we do not pass along today's spending tabs to our children and grandchildren."*

The House also approved legislation that will help North Alabama's seniors obtain prescription drugs at a lower cost by allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries. *"This bill ensures that the federal government could use all avenues to offer the best prescription drug prices for our nation's seniors,"* said Cramer.

Representative Cramer also supported legislation that will help future North Alabama students more easily pay off college loans by cutting interest rates on federally subsidized loans for undergraduate students in half from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next five years. Cramer said, *"This bill will help save college graduates from thousands of dollars of debt and will enable more students to consider federal loans as a tool to pursue higher education."*

## Committee Assignments for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

### The House Appropriations Committee

- \* Subcommittee on Defense
- \* Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development
- \* Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

### The Select Intelligence Oversight Panel

### The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

- \* Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence
- \* Subcommittee on Oversight and Intelligence



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## More News From Washington

In addition, the House approved legislation creating a new grant program to help provide first responders with interoperable communication equipment. These tools will help emergency response personnel communicate more easily with each other during a crisis. Cramer said, *"This is a critical step to ensure that our first responders in North Alabama and across the country are able to coordinate their activities during an emergency."*

Finally this month, Representative Cramer welcomed Betty Esslinger, an award winning Scottsboro City school teacher, to Washington to be his guest at the President's State of the Union Address. For this year's State of the Union Address, Representative Cramer was given one visitors' gallery ticket. *"I hope this experience will be a useful tool that Mrs. Esslinger will use to further inspire our community's children to pursue higher education and a career in public service,"* said Cramer.

## News From Across The 5<sup>th</sup> District

Representative Cramer joined University of North Alabama President Dr. William Cale this month to meet with faculty and students at the Guillot University Center. During his visit, Cramer encouraged UNA to seek out a larger role in the Shoals community. He challenged them to further participate in this area's growth by providing new ideas that make positive changes to strengthen the state and the Northwest Alabama region. Cramer said, *"A strong Shoals area and a strong UNA go hand-in-hand."*

## Congressman Cramer's Congressional Caucus Leadership Positions for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Co-Chairman, The Congressional Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus

The Congressional Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus is made up of Senators and Representatives from the Tennessee Valley region, which includes Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Cramer will co-chair this Caucus with Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee.

### Co-Chairman, The House Anti-Terrorism Caucus

The House Anti-Terrorism Caucus was formed by Representative Cramer this year to provide Members of Congress detailed information about the threat from terrorism. This caucus will provide background information, historical perspectives, and analysis to Members of Congress about radical philosophies around the world that threaten national security. Cramer will co-chair this Caucus with Representatives Sue Myrick, Ben Chandler, and Kay Granger.

### Co-Chairman, The House Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus

The Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus strives to build awareness around the issue of missing children, to find children who are currently missing, and to prevent future abductions. Cramer will co-Chair this Caucus with Representatives Nick Lampson, Judy Biggert, and Steve Chabot.

**For More Information on These and Other News Items Please Visit:**

<http://cramer.house.gov>