



# Congressman Bud Cramer

May 2003

E-Newsletter

April was an interesting month both at home and abroad. We have been fighting the War in Iraq and the ongoing War on Terrorism, and back at home we have addressed some important domestic issues such as child abduction prevention, a Fiscal Year 2004 budget, special education, and a national energy policy.

Our Armed Forces have fought a hard fight in Iraq for the last several weeks under extremely difficult conditions, but Saddam Hussein's dangerous and aggressive rule is finally over. And with the smart weapons of today – many managed in North Alabama at Redstone Arsenal – military and civilian casualties have been minimized. We must now turn our thoughts to the rebuilding of Iraq so that this new freedom in Iraq can be maintained. I will continue to monitor the events in Iraq to ensure that our military has the resources it needs.

*Bud Cramer*

## Washington Update

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives passed the "PROTECT Act" that sets up a national AMBER alert plan. The legislation, which passed by a vote of 400-25, also contains other measures to protect children against exploitation and abuse by child pornographers, molesters and sexual abusers. The President signed this bill into law on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the House passed H.R. 1559, an Emergency Supplemental spending bill that will help pay for the War with Iraq. The bill provided \$78.5 billion in supplemental funds for military operations, homeland security, first responders, and foreign assistance.

Other important legislation voted on by the House of Representatives this month:

- H.R. 6 – Establishes a comprehensive national energy plan to help our country have continued access to safe, affordable, and reliable sources of energy.
- H.R. 1350 – Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This bill authorizes \$11.1 billion in FY 2004 for services for disabled children and gradually increases this amount to \$25.2 billion by FY 2010.
- H.R. 1298 – Provides assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- H. Con. Res. 149 – Expressing support of Patriot's Day on April 19<sup>th</sup> and honoring the nation's first patriots.

## District Update

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Cramer announced that Steelcase is expanding its Limestone County manufacturing facility to add nearly 250 new jobs. Cramer commented on the announcement, "Steelcase is a first-rate company that already has a rich past in Athens and I'm confident they will continue to have a successful future here."

Also this month, Cramer presented \$400,000 to Northwest Shoals Community College that will be used to make critical upgrades to the campus security system and improvements to technology at the school. He helped the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC) celebrate its ribbon cutting ceremony on the new annex that is home to the Huntsville Weather Forecasting Office as well as lab space for the cutting-edge research that goes on at the NSSTC.



Cramer joined officials at J.F. Drake State Technical College in Huntsville to break ground on its new library and media center that will replace the old library with a new high-tech center containing personal computers, Internet access, and electronic databases.