

North Alabama, and it has paid off with hundreds of new jobs.

"In the early years, I saw the district's need for a regional economic development agenda," Cramer says. Issues like countering unemployment or building an airport were identified, and he went to work. With this agenda, he was "committed to tell our story better by working with necessary parties like the Alabama Development Office and other North Alabama economic development professionals."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he also set out to provide the resources to help make North Alabama conducive to, and attractive for, economic development. His efforts manifested in securing funding for transportation and infrastructure development, including water and sewer projects. He also got money for workforce training initiatives across North Alabama, which earned him recognition for systematically setting the stage to invite growth in the Fifth District and surrounding areas.

In the years that followed, the successes have included U.S. Gypsum, Toyota's \$20 million production expansion at its Huntsville plant, National Rail Car, North American Lighting, Steelcase, the Boeing rocket plant in Decatur and the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

At the Toyota announcement in 2003, Cramer reinforced his goal of telling Alabama's story.

"They have discovered what a good area North Alabama is to do business, and this expansion is great news for both Toyota and the people of North Alabama," he told the crowd about a project that brought 350 to 500 new jobs. "We need these new good jobs, and I'm proud to stand here with Toyota today to make this announcement."

From the start, Cramer says he sought to represent Alabama as a "can-do state" and to tell its story better, but he also recognized regional economic growth would require teamwork throughout his nine terms in Congress.

By fortifying the state's image, infrastructure and teamwork on all levels, Alabama became more competitive and more attractive to prospects.

HudsonAlpha President Jim Hudson praised Cramer's energy and devotion to bringing about development.

"When HudsonAlpha was in its very formative stages, Congressman Cramer took the initiative," Hudson says. "In order to understand the potential of biotechnology in North Alabama, he traveled to leading biotechnology centers in Arizona and New York. Convinced that biotechnology would be an ideal engine of economic growth and human progress, Congressman Cramer became a tireless advocate. His role in the founding of HudsonAlpha was critical. Congressman Cramer's willingness to work hard, to listen to all sides, to investigate the issues and to build the key relationships needed have enhanced the quality of life for everyone in North Alabama."

In 2005 Cramer joined Hudson and Alabama Gov. Bob Riley to announce the creation of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville. Cramer heralded a vital new direction for Alabama, saying, "With the creation of the HudsonAlpha Institute, we have an opportunity to lead our nation's biotechnology effort."

HudsonAlpha would turn out to be a crown jewel in setting the state on the biotech path. But Cramer has been involved in the recruitment and expansion of many North Alabama companies.

Just a year earlier, Cramer's regional economic approach had paid off with U.S. Gypsum Co.'s \$20 million expansion to the building material manufacturer's Bridgeport,

Ala., facility. Of the development, the congressman said at the time, "When a strong well-established company like U.S. Gypsum decides to expand, it reaffirms the fact that Jackson County is a great place to do business."

The location was completed in 1999 and provided 180 jobs.

In 2005, Cramer joined several state officials in announcing North American Lighting, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Koito Manufacturing Co., was going to build its \$21 million, state-of-the-art manufacturing plant at the Northwest Alabama Airport Industrial Park in Muscle Shoals. The 200,000-square-foot facility, which is producing tail lamps for automakers like Toyota, Nissan and Honda, created 320 jobs. Cramer commended the Shoals region for working together on the project and attributed the success to the area's cooperative efforts.

"All of our area's economic development leaders were determined to do what it took to land this company, and today is a direct result of our efforts," Cramer told the group. "It is further proof that if we work together as one community, we will be much stronger and better prepared to promote the benefits of Northwest Alabama."

In 2006, which would turn out to be a banner year in the congressman's regional economic development efforts, he joined Gov. Bob Riley in breaking ground for the North American Lighting plant, and again hailed regional cooperation for winning the project.

"The successful recruitment of North American Lighting was the culmination of a partnership within the entire Shoals area," he said. "The county and municipal leaders here clearly showed that they no longer view the Tennessee River or city and county lines as barriers to economic progress, and they fully understand that a new facility anywhere in this region will reap economic benefits for the entire area. All of them should be commended for their leadership."

Cramer, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, secured \$600,000 in 2006 to help install water and wastewater infrastructure at the Muscle Shoals Industrial Park.

Again in 2006, Cramer in his annual economic recruitment trip with the North Alabama Industrial Development Association (NAIDA) to Chicago, Ill., promoted Alabama's capabilities and strengths to biotech leaders in an effort to expand its biotech base, showcasing HudsonAlpha as the state's opportunity to lead the nation's biotech efforts.

Cramer also led an economic development trip to New York City, again with NAIDA and area development officials, reinforcing their "economic development team" in recruiting new industry and maintaining relationships with existing businesses. He also reinforced a central theme to his economic development success. "Each year, this trip sends a strong message to business leaders and site consultants that our region is united and committed to doing what it takes to bring new industry to North Alabama."

At an economic development summit held by Cramer and U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-Tenn.) with business and government leaders in North Alabama and Southern Tennessee, both congressmen strongly emphasized the value of regional efforts to grow and recruit business in areas on both sides of the Alabama-Tennessee border.

Collectively, their districts include Arnold Engineering Development Center, the Marshall Space Flight Center, Redstone Arsenal, automobile assembly and supplier plants, and many other manufacturing facilities and small businesses. Also, as a result, many individuals in both Alabama and Tennessee have chosen to live in one state and work in another. The Base Realignment and Closure

Commission (BRAC) recommendations were discussed, in which 4,700 jobs were directed to the Redstone Arsenal.

Cramer and Davis also met with officials throughout the Tennessee Valley to learn more about how both communities could further compliment each other.

"This team effort made all the difference in the world," Cramer says of his industrial recruitment efforts in his nine terms in Congress. It took many meetings to generate consensus among the counties and a new view on how to get it done. "I worked without barriers, without county lines."

PERSHING HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Pershing Health System, who will be dedicating a new addition to their healthcare facility on October 4th, 2008. This addition consists of a 38,000 square foot addition that will provide better care and access to the patients who utilize the services of Pershing Health System.

Pershing Health System provides services to over 40,000 patients each year. Pershing Health System has been providing service to its patients since 1960, and these latest improvements will help to see that its patients receive the best care possible.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Pershing Health System, a professional health care system that strives to provide the best care to the patients it serves. It is truly an honor to serve Pershing Health System in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING GEORGE RURITAN CLUB

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the King George Ruritan Club on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. This fine association has its origins in 1938 when a group of men banded together for the concerns of the well-being of King George County to form the King George Ruritan Club.

The King George Ruritan Club was sponsored by the Richmond County Ruritan on October 31, 1938, and granted National Charter # 57 with 27 members on the roster with J. W. Bland elected President. The Club began its service to the community in support of PTAs, church groups, the Daughters of America and the Rebekah Lodge by serving Ruritan dinners to raise funds for their activities.

King George Ruritan was reorganized in 1948 after WW II with their new major initiatives to focus on the construction of sidewalks through the village to protect school children, and the King George Volunteer Fire Department. Throughout the 1950's the Club was instrumental in the installation of a public telephone at the Court House, the collection clothes for the needy, and support of the Ground Observer Corps.

The Club's philanthropic programs in the late 1950's were the installation of lights on the High School athletic field and organizing the Fall Festival with the profits going to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

In the 1960's the Club turned its attention toward a community center which became a reality in 1979 with John Owens turning the first spade of soil representing the King George Ruritans.

The Club's main fundraiser in the 1970's was hauling manure from Hopyard Farm with the primary benefactor being the first community service group supporting the establishment of the King George Rescue Squad telemetry system. The Club also donated flag poles to the American Legion and King George Fire House, followed by the creation of a memorial scholarship in honor of J. Grafton McGinniss.

The Club's support for the Boy Scouts began with the Charter in 1938. In 1954 the Club chartered Boy Scout Troop 191, which by the 1980s had grown to include the Cubs, Webelos and Explorer Scouts, which the Club still charters.

In the late 1980s, the Club relied on its Chicken Barbeque as its primary fundraiser in addition to other food service activities. In 1989 the Club started the Rudy Ruritan Bear Program with 10 bears given to the Sheriff's Department and 10 to the Rescue Squad and this program still continues.

The King George Ruritan Club reached several significant milestones in the last decade. In 1999 the Club added its first female member who joined to carry on her husband's work and by 2000 there were a total of 6 women in the Club. The first female President was elected in 2003. In 2004, King George Ruritan Club had its first Tom Downing Fellow recipient, Aubrey Mitchell. In 2008, the Club had its first District Governor, Roy Maloy.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commemorating the King George Ruritan Club on the occasion of its 70th anniversary and its record of service to the community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of the House amendments to Senate amendments to H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Name of Requesting Member: GRESHAM BARRETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account Number: 050 Field Medical Equipment.

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is North American Rescue Products, located at 481 Garlington Road, Suite A, Greenville, South Carolina 29615.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting \$3.2 mil-

lion of funding for Combat Casualty Care Equipment Upgrade. The funding would be used for developing equipment for navy surface ships to improve field medical equipment to meet the stringent requirements of today's counter-insurgency combat operations and littoral warfare. The state-of-the-art lifesaving medical capabilities of this program will equip navy Medical Corpsman and USMC tactical units such items as lightweight NATO compatible litters, vehicle on-board lifesaving kits, individual combat lifesaving kits, and high threat extraction kits. This program benefits U.S. military personnel through unique lifesaving and trauma-mitigating field medical equipment. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE DEBORAH PRYCE ON THE OCCA- SION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE for her service to the people of Ohio and the United States House of Representatives. Congresswoman PRYCE has represented the 15th Congressional District of the State of Ohio for 16 years.

DEBORAH was elected to Congress in 1993 after serving as a Franklin County Municipal Court Judge and city prosecutor. She quickly made history as she rose to leadership positions in the House. Her election to House Republican conference chairman, the number four position in leadership, made DEBORAH the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in the House Republican leadership. She also served as conference vice-chair in 2000 and was elected president of her freshman class. DEBORAH has also served as a deputy whip since 1996.

A hallmark of DEBORAH'S term in office has been her support for children and families. She has worked tirelessly to make adoption more affordable and has been a leader in reforming the welfare system.

DEBORAH has also endured unimaginable loss. In 1999, her nine year old daughter, Caroline, died of cancer. In the wake of her daughter's death, she and her ex-husband founded Hope Street Kids, a program to support cancer research.

In the 109th Congress, DEBORAH introduced legislation to provide grants to promote pain management and end-of-life care for children with life threatening conditions. She is also the co-founder of the House Cancer Caucus.

DEBORAH'S tireless work on behalf of children living with cancer has not gone unnoticed. In 2006, she was the recipient of the American Cancer Society's highest honor, the Distinguished Advocacy Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know her family, her daughter, Mia, and her many friends and colleagues join me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her service over the years on behalf of the State of Ohio and the United States of America.

DEBORAH will surely enjoy the well-deserved time she now has to spend with her family and loved ones. I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

ALEX J. LUKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Luke, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 31, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Alex has shown an extraordinary commitment to scouting as evidenced by earning over 30 merit badges. Alex is a recipient of Ad Altare Dei Religious Award Warrior in the Tribe of Mic O' Say with his troop. He has held the post of Senior Patrol Leader with the Troop.

Alex's Eagle Scout service project consisted of constructing planter boxes for WheelChair Bound at Living Community Health Care Center in St. Joseph, Missouri. This project continues the long tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Luke for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of the House amendments to Senate amendments to H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Name of Requesting Member: GRESHAM BARRETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account Number: 33 Cbdb 0603384Bp Chemical And Biological Defense Program, Advanced Development,

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Graniteville Specialty Fabrics, located at 511 Leitner Street Graniteville, South Carolina.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting \$2.4 million of funding for Chemical and Biological Threat Protection Coating. The objective of this program is to develop self-decontaminating chemical and biological fabric with a comfort profile necessary to maintain extended protection during pandemics. This new and advanced material can be deployed either as an individual protective garment, respiratory mask, or protective shelter. The technology