

RETIREMENT OF TERRY EVERETT

SPEECH OF

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Congressman TERRY EVERETT on his retirement after 16 years of service in the House. EVERETT has been a reliable supporter of the two sectors that drive the economics of the 2nd Congressional District—agriculture and national security—and his successor will have much to do to match EVERETT's influence.

What I have always admired about TERRY EVERETT is the fact that he is the rare civic leader who comes to politics as a mid-life career. EVERETT ran a newspaper in the Wiregrass and learned from that how to run a business and how to measure community sentiment. His path is not the conventional route in an institution full of strivers who fantasized their Congressional career in grade school. But if you know TERRY EVERETT, his path leaves him a happier, more decent man than a sizable chunk of his colleagues who stress about the offices they never held and the publicity they never received.

I remember EVERETT's election in 1992 well because I lived in his district when I was home from law school. He was not his party's early favorite in the primary. Nor was he given good odds in the general: his opponent was none other than the son of Alabama's political prodigy George Wallace. But odds don't determine elections and EVERETT managed to beat a lot of money and establishment clout on the other side. To his credit, he never saw another tough race.

I think the way EVERETT won made him a little freer to be his own man. I never sensed he took a path for the sole reason that his party took it, or because he thought an opinion would elevate him with his party leaders. I sensed that TERRY EVERETT always felt that he knew his district and his people better than Washington could ever know them. He is a tried and true conservative—most of his voters wouldn't have it any other way—but his roots shaped his conservatism in a good way. It is the conservatism of someone who has seen certain values thrive in his own life and believes that they will work for others. I respect that, and agreed with him more times than a few.

I wish we had more citizen politicians like TERRY EVERETT, and I wish him well.

In addition, I congratulate Congressman BUD CRAMER on eighteen years of service to the 5th District of Alabama. Mr. CRAMER is the latest descendant in a long line of North Alabama Democrats who have served their district's interests well while garnering significant national clout, and Alabama will miss him.

When I think of BUD CRAMER, I am reminded of a sage-sounding prediction by a longtime Southern political observer. In the aftermath of Newt Gingrich's "revolution" in 1994, this individual was predicting that the John Sparkman/Tom Bevill model was becoming obsolete due to the increased partisanship and ideological polarization in states like Alabama. His premise was that conservative Democrats were imperiled because of their party label: CRAMER's exceedingly narrow victory in 1994 was even cited as an example of

the uncertain status of "blue dogs" like CRAMER.

His district should be thankful that BUD CRAMER disproved this prophecy by winning again in 1996, and then by becoming unsailable. He has not faced meaningful opposition in the last twelve years, even though every Republican presidential candidate has won the 5th District easily. The ultimate testament to his popularity: in a hotly contested race to succeed him, both the Democratic and Republican nominees are promising to "be another BUD CRAMER."

CRAMER leaves North Alabama's economy stronger than he found it. The missile research program in Huntsville is now one of the largest, most vital components of the US military budget, partly because of CRAMER—his skilled support has helped sustain missile defense against a variety of political foes. He has also nurtured a series of economic development projects in a region that has wide pockets of unemployment; one of the last projects he worked on creates a new opportunity zone in Colbert County, which will lead to at least one major new industry locating there.

In Washington, CRAMER's legacy is his thoughtful leadership on national security issues. CRAMER's influence actually rose as the Intelligence Committee on which he served grew more partisan—the congressman's refusal to either rubber stamp or reflexively oppose the Administration's agenda underscored the value of more moderate voices.

I wish BUD well. He's earned the right to weeks that don't begin with the 7 a.m., Monday morning direct flight from Huntsville to Washington.

I would also like to submit the following articles from the Huntsville Times for the RECORD.

[From the Huntsville Times, July 27, 2008]

BRAC SUCCESS A RESULT OF TEAM APPROACH, SAYS CRAMER

As U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer reflects on retiring after nine terms in Washington, he says his proudest achievement has been his team approach to getting the job done.

"Whenever we saw what needed to be accomplished, we planned and then worked as a team to reach the goal, from regional economics to the Space Station," Cramer says. "The team approach applies to each success. I was a team member and leader in identifying what we needed to do to help ourselves."

Cramer's approach was no more apparent than when he worked on presenting the area for the U.S. Army's plan to consolidate commands or base realignment, better known as the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). When BRAC emerged, the congressman says he immediately recognized he had to be in the forefront of this plan. In 1994-95, he proactively gained jobs and then prepared for the next BRAC round for more jobs. He worked in unison with the Alabama congressional delegation to demonstrate to the Army what Redstone's capabilities are.

"It meant understanding the issues," Cramer says. By serving on the House Appropriations Committee and teaming with with Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, Democrat Cramer says the pair got money to modernize Army facilities in Huntsville to make them more efficient and appealing as a workplace. Redstone impressed the Army and the Pentagon, and won the "mother of all BRAC rounds" and thousands of jobs for Huntsville. It was teamwork, he says, that paid off.

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer credits Cramer for his accomplishments with BRAC. "When the opportunity came again to win a

favorable BRAC ruling, elected officials and business groups from the Tennessee Valley region formed a task force for cohesion in pooling resources," she says. "However, as strong as our region's presentation was, we could not have had the results without the support of Bud and our congressional delegation."

Since coming to Congress in 1990, Rep. Cramer has been a leading advocate for missile defense.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Cramer, with Shelby and the other members of the Alabama delegation, secured more than \$211 million for the construction of the Von Braun Complex. Cramer's District 5, which includes Colbert, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison counties and portions of Morgan County in North Alabama, also includes the Army's Redstone Arsenal and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

In 2005, Cramer called it a "good day for North Alabama" when the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) announced it would recommend to the BRAC Commission that 3,000 jobs be relocated to the Redstone Arsenal. Comprising this relocation were components of U.S. Army Materiel Commands, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and a significant part of the Missile Defense Agency.

Soon after, the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command and Aviation Technical Test Center were also relocated to Redstone. It made North Alabama one of the nation's largest gainers with BRAC.

"Today marks a proud and historic day for Redstone and for all of us in North Alabama," Cramer said then. "I am pleased that the hard work by our community has paid off. North Alabama presented an excellent proposal highlighting Redstone's strengths, and the daily contributions people working there make to our national security."

Cramer emphasized teamwork involving BRAC committee chairman Joe Ritch and the entire Tennessee Valley BRAC team, spanning several years, to help bring the commands to North Alabama.

In October 2005, Cramer announced that BRAC supporters defeated a resolution in the House of Representatives that would have disapproved BRAC recommendations. By law, Congress had 45 legislative days to reject the BRAC report entirely, or it became law.

Following the decision, Cramer discussed the move with senior Army officials to ensure it came about.

Given today's budget environment, I wanted to make absolutely sure that even if we encounter potential challenges, North Alabama's gains will be completed," said Cramer after the hearing.

Keith Eastin, assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment, confirmed to Cramer that the DOD was legally obligated to comply with each of the 103 BRAC recommendations by Sept. 15, 2011.

At the time Cramer said, "BRAC is a congressionally authorized process that the Department of Defense has used to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently support our forces. BRAC is critical to U.S. national security and cannot be undermined. It balances national defense priorities, supports our military modernization objectives and creates opportunities for private economic development."

[From the Huntsville Times, July 27, 2008]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS "NO BARRIERS" IN CRAMER'S VIEW

When U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer was first elected to Congress in 1990, he recognized a need to take a regional economic approach for

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.