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John Husfield

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William C. Cramer and the Emergence of the Modern Republican Party in Florida
Saturday, November 20, 2004, 9 am to 3:30 pm
USF St. Petersburg, Florida Center for Teachers, Room 118

This conference will examine the factors leading to the partisan transformation of Florida from a solid one-party Democrat state to a state now dominated by the Republican Party. The program is also designed to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the election of Congressman William C. Cramer to Congress in 1954. Known as Mr. Republican, Cramer was the first Republican Congressman elected from Florida since Reconstruction and was instrumental in the development of both the Pinellas and Florida Republican Party.

9:00 am -9:15 am: Welcome
- Remarks by Arts and Sciences Dean, V. Mark Durand
- Remarks by conference organizers Darryl Paulson and Gary Mormino

9:15 am -10:30 am: The Transformation of Florida Party Politics
- Aubrey Jewitt, UCF, "Partisan Change in Florida"
- Gary Mormino, USF St. Petersburg, "The Impact of Social and Cultural Changes in the Transformation of Florida Politics"

10:45 am -12:00 pm: The Legacy of Congressman William C. Cramer
- Confirmed participants include William Cramer Jr, Dave Zachem, Gene Williams, Barbara Sheen Todd and Dick Haber.
- A panel discussion of friends, relatives and political associates of Cong. Cramer will discuss his legacy in developing the Republican Party and his impact on public policy.

Noon-12:55 pm: Keynote Address
- Merle and Earl Black, "Partisan Change in Florida and the South."
- Earl Black is Herbert Autrey Professor of Political Science at Rice University and Merle Black is Asa Candler Professor of Politics at Emory University. Regarded as the nation’s leading scholars of Southern Politics, the Blacks are the authors of The Vital South: How Presidents Are Elected, Politics and Society in the South, and their most recent book, The Rise of Southern Republicans.

12:55 pm -1:55 pm: Lunch

2:00 pm -3:30 pm: The Future of Party Politics in Florida
- A panel of Republican and Democratic officials from the Tampa Bay area will discuss factors associated with partisan change in Florida and will examine, in particular, the impact of the 2004 elections on the future of Florida's political parties.