

# Bud Shuster

January 4, 2001

## BUD SHUSTER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Dear Friends,

Twenty-eight years ago it was my great privilege to win my first nomination to the United States Congress from the 9th District of Pennsylvania. Since that memorable moment, it has been an even greater privilege to receive both the Republican and Democratic nominations nine times, a record never before achieved in Pennsylvania's history. For that opportunity to serve my country and the people of our region, I shall be forever grateful.

In recent months, both my wife, Patty, and I have been in hospitals with different health scares. While we remain optimistic, these experiences have caused me to re-evaluate my priorities and responsibilities.

On April 6th, when the President signed my AIR-21 aviation act for the 21st century, I realized I had reached the pinnacle of my Congressional career. That landmark legislation, coupled with my TEA-21 highway, transit and safety Act, which became law the previous year, is the realization of my long and sometimes lonely battle to unlock America's major transportation trust funds so we could re-build the nation's transportation systems for the 21st century. And last month we finally got our Water Resources bill signed into law, including the Everglades, the largest environmental restoration project in the world.

Having achieved these goals, after meeting with my family, we have decided now is the time for me to retire from Congress, as my Chairmanship of the largest and most productive committee of Congress comes to a close. While the scars of a hundred battles have taken a toll on both my family and me, in perspective, they are insignificant compared to the opportunities to do good things for people, or the broken neck I sustained in the course of my Congressional duties. All things considered, we decided now is the time to smell the roses while we still can.

Like my boyhood baseball idol, Lou Gehrig, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth - to have realized my dream of becoming a U.S. Congressman. The opportunities to help thousands of people, to author major legislation to re-build America, to serve as the Chairman of the largest Committee in the history of Congress, and to have served as the Ranking Member of the Intelligence Committee during our historic victory in the Cold War, all have exceeded my fondest expectations.

Having decided to retire, it is neither in the best interests of my constituents, nor in my nature, for me to linger on as a "lame duck." By retiring at the end of this month, effective January 31st, the Governor can call a special election to quickly elect my successor for the new Congress. During the interim, our Congressional offices will continue to be staffed by the current employees to serve our District.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, now is the time for me to return to that higher station in life - that of a private citizen. My prayer is that God may bless America and the wonderful people who have supported me and my family through these many years.

Bud Shuster, m.c.