

economy and American workers, but also to our national security.

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 revealed the catastrophic consequences of the inability of first responders, fire, police, and rescue personnel to communicate with each other via radio during emergencies.

Communication glitches also occurred during the response to Hurricane Katrina. Yet the Republicans want to terminate grants for interoperable emergency communications. Have we not learned anything from the communications failure during 9/11?

These draconian cuts will put our first responders at risk and slow down the response to terrorist attacks and natural disasters. I cannot in good conscience accept these cuts to interoperable emergency communications.

The irresponsible Republican plan also put our nation's fire fighting ability at risk. I am from California and we know about fires. The bill eliminates the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant program, (SAFER), which is why it is strongly opposed by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAAF).

The IAAF estimates that these cuts will result in the loss of 5,200 jobs on top of the 5,000 fire fighter jobs lost since 2008. These cuts will put our communities at risk.

The City of Compton in my district is home to an Emergency Operations Center operated by FEMA. My district is also home to several major oil refineries, gas treatment facilities, and petro chemical facilities. California's 37th Congressional District is also home to the Port City of Long Beach and is located on the outskirts of Los Angeles. A centralized emergency response center is vital to my district and the surrounding communities.

This Republican job-destroying continuing resolution seeks to eliminate these Emergency Operations Centers. Not only will the elimination of these centers result in the loss of jobs, they will put my constituents and other Americans across the country at risk. This Emergency Operations Centers are needed to coordinate the necessary resources during an emergency.

I cannot support depriving first responders, firefighters, and police officers of the tools needed to respond to public emergencies, natural or man-made. Why would we want to risk a repeat of the disaster we witnessed in the response to Hurricane Katrina? How are we better off by depriving our first responders the ability to communicate with each other during an emergency? It defies common sense.

Terrorists that are trying to attack our country are modifying their techniques to try to find our nation's vulnerabilities. Unfortunately, the Republican's bill reduces Federal, State, and tribal capabilities to secure our nation against terrorist and other catastrophic threats. This bill also diminishes our ability to protect our borders and significantly scales back our ability to detect chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1 continues the Republican avoidance of bringing job creation bills to the floor. Since the Republican's have been in control of the House, they have not brought one job creating bill to the floor. Not one. Worse, the bill before us today will actually kill jobs. Thousands of Americans will lose jobs under this Republican bill. Instead of our keeping our economy moving forward as was the case during the Clinton Administration and

during the 111th Congress, this bill will reverse the economic progress we have seen for the last several months.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1. Let's work together to ensure our first responders have the tools and resources needed to respond to natural and man-made disasters and terrorist attacks.

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#### HONORING RIA JUDGE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ria Judge was born on January 23, 1968 in Vicksburg to Ms. Lucinda Williams and reared by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Williams.

Mrs. Judge graduated from Vicksburg High in 1986 and furthered her education by obtaining a Bachelor in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, followed by a double Masters in Administration and Education from Alcorn State University.

Mrs. Judge has been teaching in the Vicksburg-Warren Public School system for the last 17 years and presently serves as Assistant Principal at Beechwood Elementary School.

Children and the elderly have always been Mrs. Judge's passion. She has been the assistant troop leader for Girl Scout Troop #5119 since 2005, dedicated Sunday School teacher, served on Mountain of Faith Restoration Shelter for Homeless Women and Children Board, volunteers at local nursing homes and has worked in many local campaign elections because of the concern she has for her community.

Mrs. Judge is married to Terry Judge and they have two children, Tavarius and Isla.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE FLOYD BUCKNER

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 16, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable public servant who has served the people of South Carolina's lowcountry for more than four decades. Mr. Floyd Buckner has been a member of Colleton County Council for 28 years, and was an educator in Colleton and Dorchester County School Districts for 39 years. He has earned the praise and respect of his fellow citizens and is deserving of this recognition.

Floyd Buckner graduated from Colleton County's Ruffin High School in 1960. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Benedict College in 1964, and a master's degree in Education from South Carolina State University in 1970.

He began his teaching career in the mid-1960s in Dorchester County schools and rose to the position of principal of Jenkins Hill Middle School in Harleyville in 1972. The following year, his home county hired Mr. Buckner to serve as Principal of Forest Hills Elementary School in Walterboro. In 1975, Mr. Buckner became the director for the Title I Program in

the Colleton County School District, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. In this capacity, he instituted a classroom on wheels designed to serve the educational needs of pre-school children, and received recognition from the U.S. Department of Education for the program's effectiveness. His commitment to the Colleton County School District was rewarded with the dedication of the Floyd Buckner Title I Parent Center in Walterboro in 1995.

Mr. Buckner also contributed to the education of young people statewide. Governor Dick Riley appointed him as a member of a state committee tasked with drafting legislation for the Education Improvement Act. He also served as President of the South Carolina State Association of Elementary Secondary Education Act Board in 1980-1981.

In addition to serving our youth in the schools, Mr. Buckner felt called to run for elective office. In 1982, he ran for a seat on Colleton County Council, and the race earned him the distinction of being the first African American to win a run-off election in that county. Mr. Buckner has served on Colleton County Council since his swearing-in on January 1, 1983.

During his service on County Council he has been committed to delivering the best service to the people of Colleton County with limited resources. He is known for ensuring equitable treatment in areas such as education, access, and quality of life. He is an expert on policy, protocol and procedures, having spent a number of years serving as the County Council Chairman. He also helped lead the restoration of the historic Old Jail into the building that houses the current County Council Chambers. His tremendous service has been recognized by Colleton County with the naming of the building at North Jefferies Boulevard in Walterboro in his honor.

Mr. Buckner has also been a committed member of the community. He has served on a number of boards including the Lowcountry Council of Governments, the Lowcountry Community Action Agency, and the South Carolina Migrant Workers Board. He is currently a member of the Walterboro-Colleton County Regional Airport Board and the Hollings Cancer Center Disparities Advisory Board at the Medical University of South Carolina. Mr. Buckner is the first president of the Arabian Temple #139, the Walterboro Shrine Club. With his appointment to the First Federal Savings and Loan Board, he became the first African American in Colleton County to serve on a bank board. He is also the first African American to own and publish a newspaper in Colleton County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Floyd Buckner for his outstanding lifetime of public service. He is a trailblazer and a role model for so many in South Carolina's lowcountry, and I am proud to call him a friend.

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#### FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. LINDA T. SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under