

**Submitted to, accepted by, N&O by Miriam Thompson 11-26-2014**

Thank you for featuring Renee Schoof's 11/20 article on the Congressional Black Caucus' election of NC's Rep. G.K.Butterfield as Chairman of the Caucus. Indeed the CBC has been for me and so many of my friends and family member the "conscience of Congress" when it was co-founded by the legendary 50 year Congress member John Conyers in 1971. As civil rights lawyer and former Superior Court Judge and organizer of an NAACP Branch, Rep. Butterfield is well positioned to take on this invaluable role.

Rep. Butterfield and the Caucus he leads will give all of us who seek a more just America a "louder voice." We all are served by his commitment to challenging voting rights restrictions, renewing the 1965 Voting Rights Act, protecting essential social programs, assuring health care access, strengthening our public's education system and economic equity. I hope his leadership of the Caucus will also help continue and advance its historic voice for peaceful alternatives to war, including bringing war dollars home to strengthen the programs Rep. Butterfield champions.

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