

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 27, 2010

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Rep. Debbie Buckner announces re-election bid

State Rep. Debbie Buckner (D-Junction City) officially qualified Monday as a candidate for re-election to the Georgia House of Representatives District 130 post in the 2010 Democratic Primary.

“It is a great honor to represent the people of Harris, Talbot and Muscogee counties,” said Buckner, who was first elected to the General Assembly in 2002. “I want to continue to use my experience to make sure the concerns of West Georgia are heard at the State Capitol. There is much work still to be done. I pledge to continue working in support of our public schools, expand access to quality affordable health care for all Georgians and help create more employment opportunities in our district.”

Rep. Buckner is the Director of Community Benefit at Columbus Regional Healthcare System, having previously worked for Doctors Hospital and the Columbus Health Department as Senior Public Health Educator. She earned her BS in Health Science from Columbus State University and attended Georgia Southwestern College to do postgraduate work and earn a teaching certificate.

Rep. Buckner is a Board Member of Twin Cedars. Her community service includes service as president of the West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, Easter Seals Board member and volunteering for the American Lung Association of Georgia, Columbus-Fort Benning chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Girl Scouts, West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, Columbus Hospice, Three Rivers AHEC, The Jekyll Island Foundation, and Historic Talbotton Foundation.

At the State Capitol, Buckner serves on the House Natural Resources & Environment, Retirement and State Institutions & Property Committees. In 2004, she was inducted into the gracious ladies of Georgia, was named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Rural Health Association, was presented the American Heart Association's Outstanding Advocate Award, and received the American Cancer Society's Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award for 2003 and 2004. In 2005 and 2006, she was recognized by the Georgia Alliance for Tobacco Prevention. In 2006, the Georgia Environmental Council honored her as the Legislator of the Year.

In 2008, The Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State Park named her Georgia State Representative of the Year, and the Georgia Conservation Voters honored her with an Environmental Leadership Award.

Representative Buckner and her husband, Mike, live at Fielder's Mill in Talbot County, one of the few operational grist mills left in Georgia. They have three children, Josh, John and Olivia.

“I look forward to talking with the people of the 130th District during the course of the 2010 campaign,” Buckner said. “This is a very important election year in Georgia, and I pledge to listen to the views of my constituents on the issues and respond accordingly. I ask for your vote and continued support.”

The Democratic Primary is scheduled for July 20, and the General Election will be held November 2.

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