

lifetime and served as the Lumberton High School Athletic Director. In this capacity, Coach Brooks was a valuable leader and role model, who pushed young athletes to achieve things they never thought possible and worked to shape their senses of integrity, character, discipline, and teamwork.

This dedication is evident through his many recognitions, as he was named to the N.C. Athletic Directors and N.C. High School Athletic Association's Halls of Fame. His legacy will also be remembered through the Lumberton High School football stadium, named in his honor, and through an endowment scholarship at UNC-Pembroke. Coach Brooks also received honors as a superior athlete himself—at Charles Coon High School, where he received all-state honors and won state championships, at Wake Forest University where he was team captain of the baseball and basketball teams, and on the national level in 1951, when he helped the U.S. win silver at the first-ever Pan American Games in Argentina as the catcher for the U.S. baseball team.

I knew Coach Brooks personally, not only as the father of my good friend, Richie Brooks, with whom I grew up with in Lumberton, and with whom I served on the Student Council at LHS, but also through his being the first Manager of Woodside Pool, which he and my father spent countless hours developing through Recreation Facilities, Inc. As President of the Student Body at LHS and as Manager of the Lumberton Pirates baseball team when I was in high school, I knew first-hand of Coach Brooks' leadership as our school's well-respected and dynamic athletic director.

As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I have a deep, personal respect for Coach Brooks' dedication to this cause. Over several decades, he has taught hundreds of youth in the Lumberton area valuable lessons and skills that have made a meaningful and lasting impact on their lives, and our community will always remain grateful.

Mr. Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, and character that defined the life of Alton "Tunney" Brooks. May God continue to bless his three children, Debbie, Richie and John, all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

#### ENSURING SOUND SCIENCE IN AGENCY RULEMAKING AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sound Science in Agency Rulemaking and Risk Assessments Act to help restore sound science and scientific integrity to the rulemaking process at our federal agencies.

On March 9, 2009, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to require federal departments and agencies to develop procedures "for restoring scientific integrity to government decision making." To date, this worthwhile and sensible project has not been completed.

This bipartisan bill, which I am introducing with my colleague from North Carolina, Mike McIntyre, seeks to build on the President's initiative by codifying the requirement that the Director of OSTP require each agency to develop guidelines to maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of scientific information used by federal agencies. This legislation requires appropriate peer review, the disclosure of scientific studies used in making decisions, and an opportunity for stakeholder input. The bill requires federal agencies to give greatest weight to information based on reproducible data that is developed in accordance with the scientific method. Further, it deems agency actions that do not follow such procedures to be arbitrary and subject to challenge by affected stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, we all want the best science used in decisions made by the federal government. This bill will help accomplish that goal.

#### RECOGNIZING LONGWOOD STUDENTS WHO HONORED VETERANS

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, both past and present, of the Longwood School District in my district on Long Island for the completion of two major projects—the Longwood Veterans Walk and the accompanying Longwood Veterans History Project, which honor those men and women who have served this nation in overseas conflicts.

In tribute to the service our veterans have given to this country, a monument commemorating the service of former Longwood school students who served in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the continuing War in Afghanistan, has been constructed and will be dedicated on June 16, 2012, in Bartlett Pond Park.

This monument is the last in a series honoring the Longwood veterans from every war in our nation's history, dating back to the Revolution. The first, dedicated in 2007, created an enthusiasm for local history and the personal stories of these men and women.

Since then, the students of Longwood Junior High School have, using a variety of sources, conducted their own research to locate the names and lives of every Longwood veteran, an undertaking that resulted in six volumes of biographies. Through the generosity of the local community, sufficient funds were raised for the completion of this ambitious and moving project.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud of this project and the students who have made it a reality. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I urge my colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the inspiring civic duty demonstrated by these students who have honored our community's veterans.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. DEWAYNE CHARLES HESTER

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Deputy Sheriff Dewayne Charles Hester, who served the people of Bladen County as a law enforcement officer for more than a decade. The Bladenboro community recently and unexpectedly lost this dear friend and beloved lawman, but his influence and compassion for the people he served will live on. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Deputy Hester's career in law enforcement began in the City of Elizabethtown Police Department, and his hard work earned him the title of Sheriff's Deputy with the Bladen County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Hester was well-respected for his dedication to keeping the citizens of Bladen County safe.

Deputy Hester made a lasting mark on his community, our state and our nation. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and we can best honor his memory by honoring his commitment to public service.

A man of faith, Hester was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Bladenboro. We know today that he is resting at home in peace and joy with his Savior.

As a Member of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been personally aware of Deputy Hester's commitment and service. Following the tragedy befalling our friend and colleague, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, I benefitted from the professionalism, courtesies, and respect he showed as he provided protection for me during one of my "Conversations with the Congressman" meetings at the Town Hall in Elizabethtown. This was but one example of his answering the call of duty wherever and wherever he was needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout North Carolina and a wonderful husband, loving father, and dutiful son. Deputy Dewayne Hester will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Tammie Hester; his daughters, Haley and Hannah Hester; his two brothers, Jamie and Kenneth; and his mother, Elfriede Hester.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time, and we will continue to remember him as an honorable man who gave his life in the line of duty.

#### CONGRATULATING MURDIC AND BEULAH BOWEN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on July 3, 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Murdic and Beulah Bowen will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Murdic and Beulah were married on July 3, 1942, in Columbia, South Carolina, and are longtime residents of the Elgin community in Richland County, South Carolina.

Together, the Bowens have contributed a great deal to their community, the State of

South Carolina, and our Nation. On December 3, 1942, Murdic reported to the United States Army and served in the 94th Division during World War II throughout the European Theatre. After his tour of duty, he returned to Elgin where he began working in textiles and became the owner of a mercantile business and a used car business. Beulah worked with the Citizens and Southern National Bank in Elgin, South Carolina, and retired from the bank after 40 years of dedicated service.

Murdic and Beulah have remained active and devoted members of the Highway Pentecostal Holiness Church in Elgin, South Carolina, and continue to remain a steadfast example of devotion, patience, and understanding to their three daughters, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. I would like to congratulate Murdic and Beulah Bowen on this momentous occasion and offer my best wishes to them and their family in the future.

#### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Many of these individuals await this decision in fear, as they stand to lose their sense of security if the law is struck down. Since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010, millions of Americans have already benefited from its sweeping reforms, and millions more stand to benefit once the law is fully implemented in 2014. Texas has the highest percentage of adults without health insurance, and striking down the Affordable Care Act will only worsen this predicament for Texans.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the Affordable Care Act, there will be no winners. The Affordable Care Act forces insurance companies to play by the rules, giving Americans greater control over their own health care. Under the health care law, insurance companies are required to publicly justify their actions if they chose to raise rates by 10 percent or more, and can no longer impose lifetime dollar limits on health benefits. In a major show of support, several insurance companies, including UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, have even pledged to preserve certain provisions of the health care law no matter what the Supreme Court decides.

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act would further exacerbate health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. Minorities suffer disproportionately from serious illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. Historically, minorities have faced considerable barriers to accessing affordable health insurance, and these barriers have contributed to significant health disparities. Under the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 3.8 million African Americans and roughly 5.4 million Latinos who would otherwise be uninsured will gain coverage by 2016. If the Affordable Care Act is struck down, millions of minorities will be forced to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, and the costs of care will be shifted to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans have introduced numerous measures to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have not yet offered one piece of legislation which would reduce health care costs for young adults and seniors or address the growing health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. As we await this monumental court decision, I, along with my Democratic colleagues, will continue to advocate for access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WHITEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM BEING NAMED NORTH CAROLINA 2-A STATE CHAMPIONS

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to ask you to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team of Whiteville, North Carolina, on being named North Carolina 2-A State Champions.

The Whiteville Wolfpack finished their season strong with a 16-game winning streak for a record of 26–5, including the championship game win over the 2011 returning State Champions. The Whiteville team also received the honors for All-Cape Fear region baseball coach of the year, Brett Harwood, and player of the year, Nathan Hood.

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, a long-time little league coach and one who grew up playing baseball, I appreciate the dedication, determination, and teamwork that earned these players the esteemed title of State Champions. I am also impressed by Coach Brett Harwood who led this team to victory, as well as the parents of each player and the Whiteville community as a whole for supporting these young baseball players as they worked to achieve their dream.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team, and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.