

advocate Malcolm X; first lady Eleanor Roosevelt; president Ronald Reagan; former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; then-Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Despite his steely demeanor, Mike Wallace struggled with personal hardships, including the death of a son and bouts with depression. At a time when such vulnerabilities were often hidden from public view, Mike Wallace shared these challenges with American audiences. His bravery and openness helped to dissolve the social stigma around depression and made a tremendous impact on the lives of many Americans.

Mike Wallace was honored with 21 Emmy Awards, five Peabody Awards, and the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. He was also inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 1991. His legacy continues through the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program at the University of Michigan, which gives mid-career journalists the opportunity to explore new subjects of interest.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on the life and legacy of Mike Wallace, one can be certain that his memory will be an inspiration for a new generation of journalists as well as for every American who values such a strong commitment to integrity and truth.

PAUL ALLEN AND THE ALLEN
INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN SCIENCE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a philanthropist and forward-looking individual who made a remarkable announcement a few weeks ago. Paul Allen, the founder of the Allen Institute for Brain Science, yesterday announced that he is giving \$300 million toward the invaluable research at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, which he started with \$100 million of his own money.

Mr. Speaker, the researchers at The Allen Institute employ an extraordinary team approach to brain research and all strive, every single day, toward the same goal: mapping the human brain with the goal of finding the causes and cures of vexing diseases—Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, dementia, autism, depression and many more.

Perhaps most impressively, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Allen's team at the Institute share what is learned as it happens. Each month, tens of thousands of scientists from around the world access the vast data stores and web-based tools available via the Institute's brain map website to learn and advance their own research. The investment Mr. Allen and the brilliant team of researchers make are intriguing and hopeful.

I'm proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Allen and his team are doing the bulk of their work in the Pacific Northwest providing hope for the future—and opportunities for the present. I salute Mr. Allen, his team of researchers, and our talented and motivated medical professionals around this Nation. The dollars and time being invested should never be forgotten in this House, nor by humanity.

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED
COUNCIL CELEBRATES FORTY
YEARS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clinton River Watershed Council as it celebrates 40 years of making a positive difference to the Clinton River and its watershed.

Forty years ago, the Clinton River was a very different waterway than it is today. Decades of uncontrolled dumping of industrial wastewater and raw sewage had taken a huge environmental toll on water quality in the river. There were no fish to speak of in the river, and certainly none that you would care to eat. Far from being an asset to the communities along its banks, the Clinton River was slowly dying.

That might have been the end of the story except for two key developments in 1972. The first was the passage of the Clean Water Act which spelled out ambitious programs for water quality improvement. The second key development was the formation of the Clinton River Watershed Council. Both of these had a profound impact on water quality in the Clinton River.

Passage of the Clean Water Act 40 years ago was one of the most important environmental milestones in our nation's history. It marked a fundamental change in how our nation views and manages water in this country. After decades of polluting the Great Lakes and their tributaries—including the Clinton River—we finally recognized that healthy rivers and lakes are vital to the health of our communities, and we required that steps be taken to restore them.

The formation of the Clinton River Watershed Council marked another important turning point. It takes time and resources to undo decades of pollution and neglect, and still more time for an ecosystem to heal. Restoring an urban waterway like the Clinton River is especially complicated. I am convinced that the effort to heal the Clinton River has gone much faster because it had advocates to coordinate action and focus attention and resources. Thanks to the work of the Clinton River Watershed Council and its members and member units of government, real progress is being made on water quality, and once again the Clinton River is being used for fishing, canoeing, and hiking. The Council's efforts in the areas of watershed management, stewardship and education have also had a tangible, positive impact.

There was a time when we turned our backs to our rivers and lakes. Today, we know better. As the hard-won progress in the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair shows, waterfront development is a real generator of economic activity and a one-of-a-kind asset to communities.

We need to build on the progress that has been made in the Clinton River Watershed as well as Lake St. Clair. This absolutely requires a partnership of effort by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as local stakeholders and advocacy groups. It also means a continued commitment of resources from the Federal Government, especially when it

comes to funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Now is not the time to cut funding for this vital initiative. Congress and the Obama Administration must also work to clarify and restore long-standing Clean Water Act protections for U.S. streams, wetlands, and other waters.

But the real work of completing the restoration of the Clinton River will continue to be done by groups like the Clinton River Watershed Council and the many volunteers and sponsors that support their efforts. The Watershed Council's work underscores the value that a healthy Clinton River holds for our citizens and communities. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Clinton River Watershed Council as it begins its fifth decade of work to protect, enhance and celebrate the Clinton River and its watershed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF
SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER W.
BLENCH, UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Senior Airman Alexander W. Blench, who recently received the 2011 Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award as the Air Force's Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Airman.

Originally hailing from Escondido, California, SrA Blench joined the United States Air Force as an F-15 Avionics Technician in 2008. He served at RAF Lakenheath, England and in Afghanistan before reporting to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, in 2010. A self-described tinkerer who developed a love of mechanics as a child working in his father's machine shop, SrA Blench now specializes in repairing electronic warfare and countermeasure systems in F-15C and F-15E aircraft. He also works on aircraft wiring, flight controls, environmental systems, munitions guidance systems and video lines. At only 24 years old, SrA Blench has already compiled an impressive list of contributions to our nation's Air Force. His sharp eye and keen understanding of avionics allowed him to identify and quickly rectify countermeasure and flight control failures, faulty telemetry data, a radar elevation discrepancy and crucial systems malfunctions. His personal efforts led to five modifications of three separate types of aircraft and contributed directly to 1,700 sorties and over 2,600 flying hours resulting in the success of several critical test missions.

SrA Blench's dedication to excellence, however, goes beyond his professional duties. In addition to his significant professional achievements, SrA Blench also completed a Community College of the Air Force degree in Avionics Systems Technology. He is also pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a 3.95 GPA, he volunteered his off-duty time to clean and paint a local middle school, and he participated in a local Northwest Florida beach conservation effort by assisting with planting 1,400 trees along the shoreline. Not only has SrA Blench proven himself to be a good Airman, he has also shown himself to be a good