

President Reagan understood the greatness of our nation lies in its people—not an overbearing government. He knew the hard work, resilience, and optimism of Americans would overcome any challenge we face.

Like many others, President Reagan is one of the reasons I entered public service. I was in 4th grade when President Reagan defeated President Carter. It was the first election I closely followed. I remember asking my parents questions about the candidates, learning the differences, and deciding to support President Reagan. While I did not understand the complexity of the issues at the time, it sparked my desire to serve.

Now, as I represent Nebraska in this great chamber, I rely on the same principles he

championed. Facing deep economic challenges, like we are today, President Reagan championed solutions to reduce the size of government, promote free enterprise, and empower individuals. He knew these timeless ideals would ensure our nation always remains a “shining city on a hill.” I believe these same foundations, which to succeed rely on the individual, instead of the government, will build a stronger America in the 21st century.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2011, I was listed as “not voting” for House Resolution 49, to provide Capitol-flown flags for recipients of the Medal of Honor. I intended to vote “yea” on this resolution, as I support the provision of flags flown over the Capitol for those who receive the Medal of Honor. I also wish to express my appreciation for Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Giunta for his valiant and courageous service to our country.