

# Journal

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## Letter to the Editor

### **To the Editor:**

The Winter 2010 issue of the *Journal of Government Financial Management* included two important articles on the CFO Act's 20th Anniversary. But, neither article gave the story of my ground-breaking work, as a Member of the House of Representatives (and CPA), in drafting and introducing legislation to bring a Chief Financial Officer to every department and agency of the U.S. Government. The only mention of my role appeared at the end of the article by Jeff Steinhoff in a footnote which stated that "U.S. Representative Joseph J. DioGuardi introduced the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act, H.R. 4495, in March 1985...calling for a CFO for the federal government and the consolidation of federal financial management within a single new organization." Nevertheless, I am perplexed that my more important work two years later to introduce a stand-alone CFO Act—on February 25, 1987 (H.R. 1241) with 10 co-sponsors, and an enhanced version of the CFO Act (H.R. 3142) on August 6, 1987 with over 57 co-sponsors—was not covered in either article. While Ed Mazur's article mentions the work that Chairman John Conyers and Ranking Member Frank Horton of the Government Operations Committee (on which I served) did to push for the passage of the CFO Act, he did not mention that it was the bill I introduced in the 100th Congress (H.R. 3142) that became the basis for the legislation they introduced and passed in 1990 in the 101st Congress, after I left the House. (Personal letters were sent to me by Chairman Conyers and Congressman Horton, and also by President George H.W. Bush, thanking me for all the work that I did over four years that set the stage for the passage of the CFO Act in 1990.) Since accountants are known and admired for fairness, objectivity, and full disclosure, I thought it appropriate to add my unique role and inside perspective to the AGA's published history of the CFO Act.

**Hon. Joseph J. DioGuardi, CPA**  
***President, Truth In Government***  
***(AGA member since 1989)***