

the Town of Sunset Beach. From a population of 30 in 1963, Sunset Beach is now home to more than 3400 permanent residents and a booming tourism industry. Unique among Barrier Island communities in North Carolina, Sunset Beach encompasses both a mainland and an island. Nearby Bird Island is a 1300-acre State Preserve barrier island home to unique species of birds and turtles.

From the natural beauty of the Intracoastal Waterway to the pristine beaches, small-town atmosphere, golf courses, and wildlife, Sunset Beach offers a family-friendly destination for thousands of tourists every year. Although Sunset Beach has grown significantly since 1963, it retains the small-town charm that has led thousands of North Carolinians to call it home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, as it celebrates 50 years. I am fortunate to represent this beautiful coastal town, to have a place to spend time there with my family, and to enjoy the friendship of its residents.

May God continue to bless this place which is so special not only to its citizens and to families like mine, but also to those who travel to this wonderful destination indeed, a beautiful part of God's creation!

HONORING MILJENKO "MIKE"
GRGICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miljenko "Mike" Grgich on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Born in Croatia, Mr. Grgich studied winemaking and viticulture at the University of Zagreb before he left communist Croatia for the Napa Valley in 1958.

In 1976 the Chardonnay that Mike made won the famed Paris Tasting. This victory shattered the myth that only French soil can produce world-class wines, and the victory pumped new energy into the California wine industry, particularly in the Napa Valley. Following Mike's lead, California vintners redoubled their efforts to make better wines each year.

In honor of his contributions to the industry, Mike was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame on March 7, 2008, the same year the California State Fair presented Mike Grgich with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1977 Mr. Grgich launched Grgich Hills Winery, a stunning illustration of innovation in winemaking. The winery converted to solar power in 2006, and today farms all of its 366 acres organically. Each of the wines that the vineyard produces is estate grown.

Today Mr. Grgich is active in Roots of Peace, the international campaign to rid the world of land mines by changing the mines to vines. In 2007, Roots of Peace presented Mike with its Global Citizen Award for his leadership and unique contributions in raising landmine awareness around the globe.

Mr. Grgich's winery donates to a number of organizations and it is a longtime supporter of the Auction Napa Valley, which raises money for local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Grgich is a legend of the Napa Valley and a champion of our community. Mr. Speak-

er, it is only appropriate that we honor Miljenko Grgich's profound contributions to Napa Valley and the art of American winemaking

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 2013, I missed rollcall Nos. 59, 60, 61, and 62 due to upcoming cataract surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 59, "nay" on rollcall No. 60, "yea" on rollcall No. 61, and "nay" on rollcall No. 62.

On March 12, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 63. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. S. GERALD DAVIDSON

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the retirement of Mr. S. Gerald Davidson. Mr. Davidson is an accomplished attorney who has dedicated his life to helping his community of Rochester, New York, and making our country a better place to live.

Mr. Davidson was first drawn to our area while attending the University of Rochester, graduating in 1952. After earning his law degree at Cornell, Mr. Davidson moved back to Rochester where he opened his own firm, Davidson Fink LLP in 1968, and focused on practicing matrimonial and family law. Since its inception, Davidson Fink has dedicated itself to tailoring to each client's individual needs, expectations and time constraints. Under Mr. Davidson's tutelage, the firm has become one of the fastest growing business operations over the last four years while attracting some of the best attorneys to Upstate New York.

With 44 years of expertise, Mr. Davidson is very generous in sharing his knowledge through lectures at the Monroe County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. By setting this precedent, employees at Davidson Fink LLP are also expected to share their experiences throughout the legal community through publishing, forums, and seminars to meet the challenges of an ever-changing profession.

In addition to fully immersing himself in the legal community through the Collaborative Law Association of the Rochester Area, Inc., and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, having previously served as the chairman of the Family Law section in New York State Chapter Board of Managers, Mr. Davidson has dedicated himself to upholding the highest level of professionalism. Mr. Davidson clearly enjoys remaining a student of a field he loves where families themselves have grown more diverse.

With all of these remarkable accomplishments, perhaps the most illustrative of Mr.

Davidson's commitment to his profession is the prestigious honor of consistently being named one of the Best Lawyers in America, beginning with their initial rankings in the 1980s. For families facing monumental changes in their future, this experience can be overwhelming, stressful, and confusing. Even if the make-up of these clients' families may be altered, what remains the same is Mr. Davidson's unparalleled abilities to navigate these complex relationships.

His dedication towards others also extends to our community. Mr. Davidson has served on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Home of Rochester and was a member of the Town of Brighton's Board of Appeals for over a decade. Davidson Fink LLP has continued to follow in his footsteps as a staunch supporter of community outreach by participating in events hosted by the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ibero-American Action League and advocating for others through pro bono work. Mr. Davidson's actions have had long lasting impacts on our community, and we are so fortunate that he has chosen to call Rochester his home.

In tribute to a lifetime of service to community and country, I stand to acknowledge Mr. Davidson. There is no better way to commemorate his retirement than to honor a man who has committed himself to families and upholding the law to the best of his abilities. I am proud to honor one of the finest residents of New York's 25th Congressional District, the incomparable Mr. S. Gerald Davidson.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS McDANIEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dennis McDaniel for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

In 2003, Dennis McDaniel joined the Windsor Heights Police Department as a police officer. Today, he is a law enforcement veteran who has ascended the rank of Windsor Heights' Chief of Police. In this role, which he has held since 2010, Mr. McDaniel has revolutionized his department's operations and actively made his community a safer place, developing a volunteer police reserve program and implementing a variety of technological and goal-based tools in his department's divisions. From serving as chairman for the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force to teaching Rape Aggression Defense programs to the women of Greater Des Moines, Dennis has demonstrated a clear commitment to providing

leadership and marked improvement to his community. In all facets of his life, Dennis is an example of service and hard work that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dennis in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McDaniel for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dennis on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 933, DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important oversight in the implementation of the sequester that this CR does not address: the inclusion of several private, non-profit organizations in the scope of the sequester.

We all recognize the importance of eliminating our country's growing deficit and debt. While the sequester is in no way the best solution to this problem, we cannot afford to ignore our nation's debt crisis. Meaningful spending cuts are absolutely required in order to get our fiscal house in order.

As a CPA, I am concerned about two organizations in particular, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. These two organizations were designed from their inception to be independent of the federal budget process.

High-quality accounting and independent audit oversight is critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment and enforcement of these standards should be managed by independent, private-sector organizations.

In order to insulate the PCAOB and FASB from coercion and to protect their independence, Congress authorized these organizations to collect fees as dedicated sources of funding in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. These fees are not federal dollars; they never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation. In fact, Section 109(c)(1) of Sarbanes-Oxley specifically says: "accounting support fees and other receipts of the [PCAOB] and [FASB] shall not be considered public monies of the United States."

Importantly, neither the PCAOB nor FASB has any budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Section 109(i) of Sarbanes-Oxley clarifies their independence further by stating: "Nothing in this section shall be con-

strued to render either the [PCAOB], [FASB], or both, subject to procedures in Congress to authorize or appropriate public funds, or to prevent such organization from utilizing additional sources of revenue for its activities . . ."

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB included them both in the President's Budget, making them subject to sequestration under the BCA. Yet, because their revenues are not federal monies, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of the PCAOB and FASB's accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting and auditing process, and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over these institutions. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process in Sarbanes-Oxley.

Absent correction, I fear that FASB's sister organization, the Government Accounting Standards Board—GASB—will also be subject to sequester. Like the PCAOB and FASB, GASB had its independence firmly established with its own authorization to collect fees and its complete separation from the federal budget written into Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting and auditing community, we must exempt these private, non-profit organizations from the President's Budget and clarify that these and other similarly situated entities are not subject to current or future sequestration under the BCA.

I would like to insert into the RECORD a bipartisan letter signed by nine members of the Congressional Caucus on CPAs and Accountants. While the letter is focused on FASB and GASB, it is equally applicable to the PCAOB and shows the bipartisan concern that protecting the independence of these organizations has.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2013.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee, U.S. Sen-
ate, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MIKULSKI, ROGERS, MURRAY, AND RYAN: As Members of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Accountants Caucus, we are concerned about the Office of Management and Budget's ("OMB") unilateral determination that sequestration applies to the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) ("BCA").

OMB's decision to sequester funding for FASB, and the potential for a future sequestration of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), undermines the independence required for the establishment of fair and reliable accounting standards. It also contradicts Congressional intent and the legal requirements of the BCA, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX"), and the

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank"). Consequently, we ask that FASB and GASB be excluded from the list of entities subject to any current or future sequestration under the BCA.

High-quality accounting standards are critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment of these standards should be managed by an independent, private-sector body. Congress statutorily authorized the SEC to designate FASB as the entity responsible for developing financial accounting and reporting standards for all nongovernmental, private-sector entities that issue financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Similarly, GASB is recognized as the private-sector accounting standards-setter for state and local governments.

Congress has determined that independent, private-sector funding sources are necessary in order for those entities to remain objective and unbiased. Therefore, Congress authorized the collection of fees as dedicated sources of funding to insulate FASB and GASB from coercion and to protect their independence. It is important to note that those fees are explicitly not public monies of the United States; the fees never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation.

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep FASB and GASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB unilaterally decided to include FASB in the President's Budget, making it subject to sequestration under the BCA. Absent correction, we fear that OMB may also decide to include GASB in the President's Budget, thereby also making it subject to sequestration. Importantly, neither FASB nor GASB has budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Therefore, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of FASB accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting process and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over FASB's budget. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made FASB independent of the Federal budget process in SOX, and GASB in Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting standards-setting process, we request that the Appropriations and Budget Committees take such steps as might be necessary to exempt FASB and GASB from the President's Budget and to clarify that these entities are not subject to sequestration under the BCA. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Rep. Mike Conaway, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Sen. Mike Enzi, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Rep. Brad Sherman, Co-Chair Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Rep. John Campbell.

Rep. Bill Flores.

Rep. Steven Palazzo.

Rep. James Renacci.

Rep. Patrick Murphy.

Rep. Collin Peterson.