

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRENDA DAVIS,
OUTGOING PRESIDENT, CORONA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of my hometown of Corona, CA, is exceptional. The City of Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Brenda Davis is one of these individuals.

On January 5, 2002, Dr. Davis will be honored as the outgoing 2001 President of the Corona Chamber of Commerce. Currently Provost of the Norco Campus at Riverside Community College, Brenda provides great leadership, administration and supervision over her faculty and students. A person with passion and principles, who has strived to have a positive effect upon her local community, Dr. Davis' leadership has been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between the cities of Corona and Norco, along with their business and educational communities.

Dr. Brenda Davis holds a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Teaching, a Master of Education Degree in Psychiatric—Mental Health Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing all from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. Dr. Davis is recognized as a very effective administrator and has held several administrative positions at Riverside Community College, including Director, Department Chairperson of Nursing; Dean, Nursing Education; Dean, Grant and Contract Services.

Brenda's tireless, engaged action have propelled the City of Corona forward in a positive and progressive manner. Her work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of the City of Corona make me proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that all of Corona is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of the community and salute her as she departs. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of our community in the future.

ON INTRODUCING THE ANTI-TERRORISM CHARITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Anti-Terrorism Charity Protection Act, a bill that will not only ensure that organizations supporting terrorism are denied the benefits of an American tax deduction, but will protect innocent citizens from donating well-intentioned contributions to organizations that misappropriate funds to support terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11th, we have learned a great deal about Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda terrorist network. Bin Laden apparently is rich, with a personal fortune of over \$300 million. In addition, a complex global financial network exists to supplement his personal fortune. Alarming, evidence suggests that organizations in the United States and abroad have cloaked themselves as charitable groups to help funnel funds to al Qaeda.

The President has already frozen the assets of the Wafa Humanitarian Organization, the Al Rashid Trust, the Makhtab al-Khidamat and the Society of Islamic Cooperation. These were groups that were supposedly charitable organizations, but were mere conduits for raising money for the treacherous acts of September 11 and other acts of terrorism around the world.

On December 3rd, the Administration froze the assets of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a foundation based in Richardstown, Texas. According to a December 5th article in The New York Times:

Mr. Bush and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said today that they believe many Muslims who contributed to the Holy Land Foundation did not know where their money was going. "Innocent donors who thought they were helping someone in need deserve protection from these scam artists." Mr. O'Neill said at the White House. The Treasury also announced action against the Al Aqsa Bank and the Belt al Mal Holdings Company, a bank that it described as "direct arms of Hamas."

I ask that the full text of the article follow my remarks.

It seems clear that the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development is an organization that serves as the fundraising arm of Hamas, which is responsible for hundreds, if not thousands, of terrorist deaths in Israel over the years, with a recent surge of murder of innocent young people in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

I do not believe that the American people, especially American Muslims, are intentionally giving money to support terror. In fact, I am sure that the vast majority of contributors to this organization believed that their money was going to support the legitimate humanitarian concerns that Americans have about the situation in the Middle East.

The facts, however, indicate that these contributions were being used to finance bombs targeted at innocent civilians.

Mr. Speaker, Americans trust the IRS to determine what is and what is not a charity. If there is an organization that is designated by the IRS to allow contributions to be tax deductible, almost all of our citizens would automatically assume that the group was legitimate. The IRS does an excellent job applying its regulations very stringently. Unfortunately, according to the IRS, the Holy Land Foundation did receive these benefits.

Currently, the IRS by internal regulation denies charities affiliated with terrorism a tax deduction. This is all well and good, but the fact is that this could be challenged in court. I believe that the IRS needs a stronger tool. I believe that this restriction must be in the law.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Financial Anti-Terrorism Act, I introduced

an amendment on this issue that Chairman OXLEY, Mr. LAFALCE, and the Committee on Financial Services were gracious enough to accept, though it did not make it through conference. The amendment asked that Treasury study how terrorist organizations may use charities to fund their operations. I am gratified to see that the Department of the Treasury and Secretary O'Neill seem to be focusing on this issue and would encourage them to continue doing so.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to win the War on Terrorism, we must fight the war on every front. The financial front is one important battleground and we must do everything we can to ensure that our soldiers—not only in Afghanistan behind rifles but here in America in front of computer screens—have the weapons they need to defend America.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 10, 2001]
BUSH FREEZES ASSETS OF BIGGEST U.S. MUSLIM CHARITY, CALLING IT A DEADLY TERROR GROUP

(By David E. Sanger and Judith Miller)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 4—President Bush significantly broadened his counterattack on terrorist groups today, freezing the assets of the largest Muslim charity in the United States. Mr. Bush accused the charity of supporting Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that took responsibility for three suicide bombings in Israel over the weekend.

Mr. Bush's announcement was a strong demonstration of solidarity with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel, who has urged that Hamas be treated with the same severity as Al Qaeda's terrorist network.

White House officials said they had planned to move against the charity and two banks that helped finance Hamas later this month, but sped up the action after the bombings, which killed 25 people and wounded almost 200, many of them teenagers.

Treasury officials said the charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, based in Richardson, Tex., had been under investigation since 1993.

In a statement the charity denied allegations that it provides financial support to terrorists. It said "the decision by the U.S. government to seize the charitable donations of Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan is an affront to millions of Muslim Americans."

A senior official said the administration had delayed acting for fear of harming the F.B.I. investigation of the charity. Search warrants were executed today when federal officials seized documents at the charity headquarters and other offices.

International political considerations were also in play, other administration officials said. The White House debated whether moving against Arab extremist groups could weaken the coalition Mr. Bush has assembled in the war on Afghanistan. "The bombings changed the politics of this considerably," a senior administration official said.

Speaking in the Rose Garden this morning, Mr. Bush appeared to side with Mr. Sharon in his characterization of Hamas. "Hamas is one of the deadliest terror organizations in the world today," he said, adding that it "has obtained much of the money it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States."

The statement was something of a turnaround for the administration. Its first list of terrorist groups subject to American action, released days after the Sept. 11 attacks, made no reference to Hamas. A second list