



## **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Office of**

### **David Kuo – Subject Files**

**Position:** Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

**Date Ranges:** 2001 – 2003

**Extent and Forms of Material:** 5 linear inches

**Abstract:** David Kuo served as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director in the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) from 2001 to 2003. The majority of his materials relate to the drafting and editing of charitable choice legislation.

**Repository:** George W. Bush Presidential Library, National Archives and Records Administration, Dallas, TX [gwbush.library@nara.gov](mailto:gwbush.library@nara.gov) (214) 346-1557

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**Custodial History:** Official records of George W. Bush's presidency are housed at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

**Processing note:** Processed by Matt Law, archivist, 2011.

**Preferred Citation:** Type of document; names of sender and recipient, or title of document; date; folder title or White House Office of Records Management Subject Code and case number; box number; Collection Title and series/subseries, George W. Bush Presidential Library.

**Biographical History:** J. David Kuo served in the White House from 2001 until 2003. (Professionally Kuo used only his middle name, David, and no first initial.)

After moving to Washington, D.C. in 1990, Kuo worked for various political leaders, including John Ashcroft, Ted Kennedy, and Bob Dole, and specialized in speechwriting. Following the presidential election in 1992, Kuo served as Deputy Policy Director of Empower America (now part of FreedomWorks). In 1996, Kuo founded The American Compass, a charity designed to

evaluate the effectiveness of social service organizations. He served as its President until 1999, while also serving as Senior Vice President for communications at Value America from 1998-2000. Kuo held the position of Vice President at Century strategies, an Atlanta-based public relations firm, before joining the White House in 2001.

Kuo left the White House in 2003. In addition to authoring two books (*dot.bomb: My Days and Nights at an Internet Goliath* and *Tempting Faith*), Kuo has contributed articles to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, and *The Huffington Post*.

Kuo died on April 5, 2013 after losing a long battle with cancer.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Subject Files largely document the initial staffing of the OFBCI positions and the Office's efforts to expand legislation for charitable donations. Kuo was directly involved with the issue of charitable choice, as an example of President Bush's compassionate conservatism message and the potential benefits it could bring for community and faith-based organizations. Much of the material in this series relates to previously issued legislation on charities and compassion, the drafting of new legislation, and the White House comments on proposed bills.

On legislative issues, Kuo worked closely with fellow OFBCI staffers Don Willett, Deputy Director, and Stanley Carlson-Theis, Associate Director for Policy and Research. Carl Esbeck, an appointee in the Deputy Attorney General's Office at the Department of Justice, also frequently corresponded on the issue of charitable choice.

**System of Arrangement:** This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Related Collections:** (as of February 2013)

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives – Willett, Don

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives – Carlson-Theis, Stanley

### **Container List:**

#### **Box 1**

##### **Kuo, David - Subject Files**

- 1 Additional Possible Consultants [for Office of Faith-Based Action]
- 2 African American Churches
- 3 CNS (Corporation for National Service)
- 4 Contacts
- 5 Copy of Latest Charitable Choice Expansion Act Legislation
- 6 HUD Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships - Under Clinton Administration 1999
- 7 Media
- 8 Meeting, Tuesday 01/30/2001

- 9 Meeting, Wednesday 01/31/2001
- 10 Memorandum to Gary Edson from Annie Billings [Thoughts on Establishing the Office of Faith-Based Action]
- 11 One Page on Charitable Choice in Welfare Reform Law
- 12 Senate Bill [1] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 13 Senate Bill [2] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 14 Senate Bill [3] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 15 Senate Bill [4] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 16 Senate Bill [5] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 17 Senate Bill [6] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 18 Senate Bill [7] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 19 Senate Bill [8] [Charitable Choice Legislation]
- 20 Welfare Reform Law and Charitable Choice