

Los Angeles Times

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993

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Tax-Free Status OK'd for Church of Scientology

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After decades of feuding, the Internal Revenue Service has granted the Church of Scientology and more than 150 of its corporate entities tax-exempt status, ruling that they are charitable, religious organizations entitled to be free from taxation.

Marty Rathbun, president of one of the Scientology organizations that received the tax exemptions, said the government sent 30 exemption letters to Scientology groups earlier this month. All told, the exemptions apply to 153 corporate entities, said Rathbun, who is the president of the Religious Technology Center.

"We're extremely pleased with the tax exemptions," Rathbun said,