

Collection #  
M 1365  
DVD 1364, 1366-68

**KATIE HALL PAPERS  
ADDITION, 1983-2017**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: **Manuscript Materials:** 1 half-sized manuscript box  
**Visual Materials:** 1 cold storage color photograph folder, 1 OVB graphics folder, 4 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 1983–2017

PROVENANCE: Katie Hall Educational Foundation, Inc./Family of The Honorable Katie Hall, December 2017

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Katie Hall Papers M1321

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0318

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Katie Beatrice Green Hall (April 3, 1938–February 20, 2012) was born in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, to Jeff Louis and Bessie Mae Green. Katie graduated from Mound Bayou High School in 1955 and went on to Mississippi Vocational College (now known as Mississippi Valley State University) in Itta Bena, Mississippi, where she had an interest in history and American government. During her junior year of college, she met Air Force officer, John Henry Hall. Katie married Hall on August 15, 1957, and the couple was together for fifty-four years. They had two children together: Jacqueline Demetrius Hall and Junifer Detrice Hall.

After she graduated from Mississippi Vocational College in 1960, Katie and John moved north to Gary, Indiana, to start their new life. Hall worked as a substitute history teacher for the Gary Community School Corporation until she secured a permanent teaching position at Edison High School. She taught U.S. history, government, and economics. During her years at Edison High School, she was the chairperson for the Social Studies Department and received her Master of Science in Education from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1968.

Hall first became involved in politics while working on a Richard Gordon Hatcher campaign for mayor of Gary, Indiana. After working on the Hatcher campaign, Hall became interested in running for local office herself. In 1972, Hall ran an unsuccessful campaign for the fifth district councilwoman in Gary. She was subsequently elected to the serve in the Indiana House of Representative from 1974–1976 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1976–1982. While working in the Indiana state legislature, she served on the Lake County Democratic Committee (1978–1980) and chaired the 1980 Indiana Democratic Convention.

After the premature death of Adam Benjamin Jr., Congressman of the First Congressional District of Indiana in 1982, Hall was elected to finish the rest of Congressman Benjamin's term and served two terms of her own. Upon her election, Hall became the first African American woman from Indiana to serve in the U.S. Congress. Representative Hall had seats on Post Office and Civil Service Committees, the Public Works and Transportation Committee, Sub-Committee on U.S. Census and Population, Sub-Committee on Economic Development, and Sub-Committee Public Buildings and Grounds. Her lasting contribution as a representative was introducing legislation to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a federal holiday. On November 2, 1983, Representative Hall accompanied by President Ronald Reagan, Coretta Scott King, Vice President George H.W. Bush, Representative Jack Kemp, and Senator Howard Baker designated Martin Luther King's birthday as a federal holiday.

After leaving Congress in 1985, Hall returned to Gary, Indiana, where she served as the Gary City Clerk in 1985. Hall also continued her career as a U.S. government and economics teacher at Roosevelt High School, Emerson School for the Visual and Performing Arts, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. Hall retired from the Gary School Corporation in 2004, but remained heavily involved in the Gary community. She was the President of the Gary Council for Social Studies, former Vice-Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners of Housing Authority for Gary, Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Assistant Coordinator of

Jesse Jackson for President in 1984 and 1988, National Coordinator of the Mondale-Ferraro Committee for President and Vice President in 1984, Secretary of the Indiana State Democratic Central Committee (1978–1984), Vice Chairwoman of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee (1978–1980), Chairwoman of the Indiana State Convention (Indianapolis) in 1980, Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco in 1984, Delegate to the Democratic National Mid-Term Convention in Philadelphia, former member of the Senior Usher Board and church member at the Van Buren Missionary Baptist Church, former member of the National Organization for Women, and a member of the Indiana Retired Teachers' Association.

She resigned from her position as the city county clerk in January 2003 after pleading guilty to a charge of federal mail fraud for placing her daughter on the clerk's payroll without having her perform any work. On February 20, 2012, Hall died at the age of 73 in Gary, Indiana.

Sources:

Hankins, Melanie. "Katie Hall Papers, ca. 1957–2017 [Collection Guide]". Indiana Historical Society, October 2017. <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/katie-hall-papers.pdf>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains documents and photographs connected to Katie Hall's tenure as a U.S. Congresswoman and city clerk of Gary, Indiana. Items include a 1984 luncheon program with Hall and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill Jr., a city clerk election certificate and materials related to the passage of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Law, including a video clip from the ceremony in 1983. There are also several items from the Katie Hall Educational Foundation (KHEF), including articles and programs from the Fifth Annual KHEF Public Service Awards, Harriet Tubman student essay submissions, and a MLK Jr. National Holiday Law commemorative postcard.

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Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Law  
Materials, 1983, 1988, 2008, 2010, 2014, n.d.

### CONTAINER

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Video Clip of President Reagan Signing MLK Jr.  
National Holiday Law, November 1983

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Program from Luncheon Honoring Congresswoman  
Katie Hall and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill Jr.  
and Pledge Card for "Katie Hall for Congress", 3  
February 1984 & n.d.

Box 1, Folder 2

"Luncheon with Katie Hall" Souvenir Programs, 23  
October 1994 & 29 January 1995

Box 1, Folder 3

Group Photos with Katie Hall, early 1990s

Cold Storage  
Color Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

Katie Hall Digital Photo Album

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Katie Hall Illustration, n.d.

OVB Graphics,  
Folder 1 of 1

Katie Hall's Certificate of Election to the Office of  
City Clerk of Gary, Indiana and Oath of Office for  
Same Position, 2 November 1999 & 31 December  
1999

Box 1, Folder 4

Katie Hall Educational Foundation-Abraham Lincoln  
Floral Remembrance Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois  
Program, 14 April 2017

Box 1, Folder 5

Katie Hall Educational Foundation-Martin Luther  
King Jr. National Holiday Law Commemorative  
Postcard Materials, 2017

Box 1, Folder 6

Katie Hall Educational Foundation-Fifth Annual Katie  
Hall Public Service Awards Luncheon Materials,  
March-April, July 2017

Box 1, Folder 7

Katie Hall Educational Foundation-2017 Harriet  
Tubman Student Essay Contest Submissions Sent to  
President Trump

Box 1, Folder 8

Images and Articles about John Henry Hall, Junifer Hall and Mr. Henry Hooper, 2017, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 9

40th Anniversary Celebration of the Elections of The Honorable Richard Gordon Hatcher and The Late Honorable Carl B. Stokes Program, 23 February 2008

Box 1, Folder 10

*Keeping the Faith* Music Recording, Presented by Mississippi Valley State University, n.d. [Audio Only]

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*Inspirations* Music Recording, Presented by Chambers Middle School [Hollandale, Mississippi], n.d. [Audio Only]

DVD 1368