

Collection #
M 1321
OM 0712
DVD 1225–1227

**KATIE HALL
PAPERS, CA. 1957–2017**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 3 DVDs, 2 folders of black and white photographs, 1 folder of color photographs, 1 OVC color photo, 1 oversize manuscript folder, 4 artifacts.

COLLECTION DATES: 1957–2017

PROVENANCE: Junifer Hall of Katie Hall Educational Foundation Inc., Gary, Indiana, March 2017.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0076

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 August 15, 1957, and were married 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 together. 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 J. 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 Indian 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 charge to a federal mail fraud charge 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:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials related to Katie Hall, former U.S. Representative for the first Congressional District and a Democrat from Gary, Indiana. The materials include photographs (ca. 1956–2016), essays (2015–2016), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission papers (1984–1986), newspaper clippings, articles, correspondence, resolutions, proclamations, appointments, programs, invitations, reports, booklet (1975–2017), 3 DVDs (2014–2015), and 4 campaign buttons (1984–1986).

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