

## FINDING AID

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW BOUNDS LAW LIBRARY ARCHIVES

---

KENNETH ALLISON ROBERTS COLLECTION  
MSS.0014

---

**Date Span:** 1940s – 1960s

**Collection Size:** 5 cubic feet

**Description:** The Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection consists of approximately five cubic feet of documents, manuscripts, diaries, photographs, and artifacts deposited with the Bounds Law Library by the family of Congressman Roberts. The collection spans the 1940s through the 1960s with the bulk of materials from the 1950s and 1960s. Roberts served as Alabama Representative to the United States Congress from 1951 to 1965. Included in the collection are correspondence files of interest to researchers of mid-twentieth-century Alabama politics. In addition, the collection includes Robert's appointment diaries and one diary-like booklet in which Roberts apparently wrote the script for a stump speech on behalf of presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. The papers likewise contain materials pertaining to his long-term interest in consumer and automobile safety and to the electrification of the Coosa River Valley by means of the construction of dams. One of several groups of artifacts in the collection recalls the 1954 attack by Puerto Rican nationalists on the United States House of Representatives in which Roberts was wounded. These items include the flag his assailants displayed during the attack.

---

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection

### Box 1 (Files 1-30, 32):

- File 1. Introductory / Extraneous Materials. Correspondence with Dr. and Mrs. Harold S. Sinrod concerning the Roberts Collection. Inventories of the collection, etc.
- File 2. Introductory / Extraneous Materials. Clippings. Photocopies of news stories concerning the Puerto Rican attack on the House in 1954, which were sent to Dr. Harold Sinrod by Congressman Glen Browder. Includes a letter from Browder to Sinrod, October 27, 1989, with enclosures.
- File 3. Introductory / Extraneous Materials. Biographical Information. Excerpts from Gertrude Tyson's *The Colonel's Star* (1972). Includes a photocopy of a clipping about Gertrude Tyson.
- File 4. Personal Information. Roberts's resume, circa late 1960s.
- File 5. Insurance. Correspondence. Insurance and related papers, 1946-1954. Two envelopes.
- File 6. Political Materials. Finances. Bills, etc., for campaign expenses, 1950, 1952. Two envelopes.
- File 7. Political Materials. Correspondence. 1951.
- File 8. Finances. Correspondence. Unpaid bills, miscellaneous financial matters, 1952. Includes correspondence, bills, checks, etc. Three envelopes.
- File 9. Correspondence, etc. Papers, 1952-1953, relating to the inauguration of President Eisenhower.
- File 10. Personal Information. Correspondence. Biographical information, 1953, including the "Statement of Kenneth A. Roberts," dated April 21, 1953.
- File 11. Correspondence. One letter, C.C. Horton to Roberts, November 6, 1953. A thank-you letter from the director of the State Department of Veteran Affairs.
- File 12. Correspondence. Telegrams. 1953. Three envelopes.
- File 13. Finances. Correspondence. Telephone and telegraph bills, statements, etc., with related correspondences, 1953-1954.
- File 14. Correspondence. Political Materials. 1954. Seven envelopes.
- File 15. Correspondence. Terrorist Attack. Political Materials. Letters to and from political supporters and contributors, 1954. Many have to do with Roberts's wound.
- File 16. Correspondence. Telegrams. 1954.
- File 17. Political Materials. Regionalism. Speech. "Triumph of the South," speech delivered August 28, 1954.
- File 18. Political Materials. Election returns, 1954, in various forms.
- File 19. Political Materials. Correspondence. Thank you letters to his supporters, 1954.
- File 20. Finances. Medical. Terrorist Attack. Medical expenses, 1954 (one document from 1955).
- File 21. Political Materials. Correspondence. Clippings, etc. Campaign materials, 1954-1956. Two envelopes, one loose publication.
- File 22. Political Materials. Clippings. 1956.

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection Finding Aid

- File 23. Political Materials. Speeches. Notes for speeches, 1959-1960, handwritten and typewritten, kept in a small black notebook.
- File 24. Miscellaneous information. Clippings. Correspondence. Assorted documents, mostly from the late 1950s and early 1960s.
- File 25. Political Materials. Correspondence. Clippings. Miscellaneous documents, most from 1962. Also a February 1963 issue of *The Progressive* (loose; not in envelope).
- File 26. Political Materials. Correspondence. Clippings, etc. Miscellaneous documents, 1962-1964. Contains information on politics, George Wallace, and desegregation.
- File 27. Architectural Drawings. Drawings for a "Lake Cottage" for Roberts and blueprints for a "Lake Cottage" for Malcolm McMillan. Both executed by Birmingham architect Wilmot C. Douglas. A letter from Wilmot C. Douglas to Roberts, February 14, 1963.
- File 28. Political Materials. Correspondence, etc. Letters, most of political topics, 1964, including an exchange of correspondence with Hubert H. Humphrey. Also a 1962 program for a presidential award.
- File 29. Memorabilia. Political Information. Correspondence, etc. Documents of a 1964 trip to England and Europe. Roberts was evidently a delegate to the 17th World Health Organization conference in Geneva.
- File 30. Automotive Safety. Clippings. Photocopy of a 1966 clipping involving Roberts and Ralph Nader, and a 1966 *Consumer Reports* article by Ralph Nader.
- File 31. [located in Box 3]
- File 32. Miscellaneous Information. Clippings. Fliers, etc. Assorted documents, fliers, clippings, pamphlets, etc., from the 1960s.

### Box 2 (Files 33-47):

- File 33. Clippings. 1960s-1970s.
- File 34. Obituaries. Terrorist Attack. Clippings. Photographs, obituaries, and clippings, most of the latter dealing with the 1954 terrorist attack on the House, all stored in a notebook.
- File 35. Diaries. Appointment books or pocket diaries, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1968. Also a "bridge pad" used for similar purposes.
- File 36. Miscellaneous Information. Government Documents. Fliers, etc. Various pamphlets and other documents collected by Roberts.
- File 37. River Development Projects. Clippings. Concerning the Howell Mills Shoals Dam, 1951-1952.
- File 38. River Development Projects. Speeches. Clippings, etc. Material on the development of the Alabama-Coosa Rovers system, 1951-1958. Two envelopes.
- File 39. River Development Projects. Correspondence, Speeches, etc. Materials on water power, inland waterways, and dams, mostly from 1952. Two envelopes and two loose publications.
- File 40. River Development Projects. Correspondence. Pamphlets, etc. Alabama Power Company/Alabama-Coosa Rivers project. Two envelopes.

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection Finding Aid

- File 41. River Development Projects. Correspondence. Government Documents, etc. Alabama Power Company/Alabama-Coosa Rivers project. Miscellaneous documents, most from 1954-1957. Some government documents from the 1940s.
- File 42. River Development Projects. Correspondence, etc. Letters and other documents, most pertaining to various dam projects along the Coosa River.
- File 43. River Development Projects. Correspondence. Materials dealing with the Coosa-Alabama Rivers Improvement Association. Two envelopes.
- File 44. River Development Projects. Miscellaneous Documents. Two mimeographed documents concerning Roberts's statement before a House Subcommittee, May 20, 1957. One is evidently a press release.
- File 45. River Development Projects. Correspondence. Clippings. etc. Papers having to do with Coosa-Alabama Rivers development. Six envelopes.
- File 46. River Development Projects. Map. Alabama Power Company map of a portion of the Coosa River specifying property owners. No date.
- File 47. River Development Projects. Miscellaneous Documents. Two copies of Know Your Waterways (1955), and the mimeographed record of a May 20, 1957 hearing before a House Subcommittee.

### Box 3 (Files 31, 48-94):

- File 31. Photographs. Miscellaneous photographs, taken mostly in the 1950s and 1960s. (folder includes negatives)
- File 48. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Photograph of warship. Brittle.
- File 49. Clippings. Two newspaper clippings from Roberts's briefcase. Undated.
- File 50. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts in Naval uniform.
- File 51. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts's commission as Ensign, Naval Reserve, April 18, 1942.
- File 52. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts's commission as Lieutenant, Naval Reserve, September 7, 1949.
- File 53. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts's commission as Lieutenant Commander, Naval Reserve, November 5, 1964.
- File 54. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Three prints of a portrait photograph of Roberts with invoice.
- File 55. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Small photograph of Roberts. Damaged.
- File 56. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photograph of Roberts. Damaged.
- File 57. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photographs of one of Roberts's daughters, c. 1950s.
- File 58. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photograph of one of Roberts's daughters, c. 1950s.
- File 59. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photograph of one of Roberts's daughters, c. 1950s.
- File 60. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photograph of one of Roberts's daughters, c. 1950s.
- File 61. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Portrait photograph of Roberts, inscribed to his mother, c. 1940s-1950s.

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection Finding Aid

- File 62. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Groundbreaking, 1940s-1950s. Roberts in center.
- File 63. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Group photograph. Talladega, c. 1940s to 1950s. Roberts second from left.
- File 64. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts on telephone, probably during congressional campaign, c. 1950s.
- File 65. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Inscribed photograph of Dwight D. Eisenhower. 1953.
- File 66. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Group photograph with Dwight D. Eisenhower, members of Congress, March 23, 1953. Roberts is on second row at right.
- File 67. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts with Congressmen Albert Rains (left) and Carl Elliott (center), c. 1950s.
- File 68. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts between Carl Elliott (left) and Albert Rains (right), c. 1950s.
- File 69. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts and an unidentified man (congressman?), c. 1950s. Damaged.
- File 70. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Banquet, Roberts in center.
- File 71. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Cartoon (“Woofus Birds”) concerning Roberts’s hospital treatment following the 1954 terrorist attack on the House of Representatives. By Brooks Hays. Fragile.
- File 72. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts shaking hands with unidentified man.
- File 73. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts’s certification to practice before General Courts Martial. February 11, 1957.
- File 74. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Inscribed, mounted photograph of John C. Watts.
- File 75. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Inscribed photograph of Sam Rayburn.
- File 76. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts with Werner Von Braun.
- File 77. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Photograph of Roberts with one of his daughters, Probably a safety campaign publicity photograph, c. 1960s. Damaged.
- File 78. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts with other members of a congressional committee or subcommittee.
- File 79. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Group photograph with John F. Kennedy. September 12, 1961. Roberts in third from right.
- File 80. Photographs, Certificates, etc. White House ceremony. John F. Kennedy at center right, Roberts in background to Kennedy’s left.
- File 81. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Group photograph with John F. Kennedy in Oval Office. Roberts is third from right, front row. Lister Hill is immediately to J.F.K.’s right. Claude Pepper is second from left, front row.
- File 82. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Group photograph with John F. Kennedy. October 31, 1963. Roberts is not fully visible.
- File 83. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Birthday letter to Roberts, November 1, 1963. White House stationery, possibly from John F. Kennedy.

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection Finding Aid

- File 84. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Two photographs of Lyndon B. Johnson with congressmen. August 18, 1964. Roberts to the left of L.B.J. in each.
- File 85. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts's certificate of good standing before the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama. November 30, 1964.
- File 86. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts's certificate of membership in the American Bar Association. 1965-1966.
- File 87. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Diploma. Roberts's Juris Doctor Degree (1969), replacing his LLB.
- File 88. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Certificate of Membership in Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. Dated January 7, 1934. Brittle. Certificate from the Talladega Lions Club honoring Roberts, c. 1939. Brittle.
- File 89. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Certificate of Membership in The Bar Association of the District of Columbia. March 3, 1967.
- File 90. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Photograph of Julia C. Thompson presenting Roberts with the Alabama State Nurses Association Plaque. Undated.
- File 91. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Roberts with Congressional Subcommittee. Undated.
- File 92. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Certificate of Appreciation from the Animal Health Institute. July 22, 1968.
- File 93. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Northern District of Alabama Practice Certificate. February 2, 1939.
- File 94. Photographs, Certificates, etc. Unidentified man, unidentified medium, undated photographic negative.

### Box 4 (oversized):

- Alabama State Flag.
- Confederate Battle Flag.
- Puerto Rican Flag with 1954 Police Comments.
- United States Flag.
- Alabama State Nurses Association Plaque, undated.
- District of Columbia District Court Practice Certificate, 1965.
- American Association for Automotive Medicine, 1965.
- Eisenhower's Pen with the Refrigerator Bill of 1956.
- Johnson's Pen with the Nurse Training Act of 1964.
- Johnson's Pen with the Public Health Service Act of 1964.

### Box 5:

- Badge and Ribbon from the National Democratic Convention, 1960.
- Badge and Ribbon from the American Legion 27th Department Convention, 1946.
- Congressional Country Club Baseball Cap.
- House of Representatives Pen Stand.
- "LBJ" cufflinks.
- "LBJ" Felt-Tipped Pen.
- Puerto Rican Ammunition Clip.

## Kenneth Allison Roberts Collection Finding Aid

- Telstar Desk Ornament, c. 1962.
- Assorted Gavel (7).
- Personal Letterheads: Congressional and Attorney.

### Box 6 (oversized):

- County of Los Angeles Certificate of Recognition.
- United States House of Representatives Certificate of Service.
- University of Alabama Bachelor of Laws Diploma, May 1935.
- Certificate from the Alabama Legion Department of the American Legion, October 30, 1958.
- Farrah Law Society Membership Plaque, October 1969.
- Alabama Supreme Court License to Practice Law in Alabama Certificate, February 18, 1936.
- International Health Bill, July 12, 1960, signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower. Framed bill includes the signing pen.
- United States Supreme Court Practice Certificate, October 7, 1963

### Room 110:

- Framed oil portrait of Roberts, 1952.