

**Mrs. Rosalind Kress Haley (1910-2008)**

Born July 21, 1910, Rosalind “Ros” Kress grew up at Buckfield Plantation in the low country of South Carolina, near Savannah, Georgia. She attended Sacred Heart Convent, Miss Spence’s School in New York, New York University, and the Art Students’ League. She married Wesley Frame and moved to Utica, New York, where he was a junior officer of Utica and Mohawk Cotton Mills. They lived there seven years, before returning to Buckfield Plantation where they raised their three sons.

For sixteen years she owned and operated Hitching Post Fine Foods, a manufacturing and gift business. In 1959, she became concerned at the increase of centralized government and sold her business to devote full time to defeating socialism in America. With two Savannah businessmen, Kenneth Roberts and Carl Wheeler, she started Doorstep Savannah and became its Executive Director. Its primary function was public education through Americanism programs of all kinds. Doorstep Savannah offered a library of books, government pamphlets, movie films and tape recordings and a speakers’ bureau.

For six and a half years, she had her own radio program called “You’re On The Air.” For fifteen minutes she spoke on a topic of public interest relating to Americanism, then took calls from the public for thirty minutes. She testified before committees of both Houses of Congress. She addressed the Platform Committee of the 1964 Republican National Convention in an effort to preserve the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law. In 1965, she received the Freedom Award of the Order of Lafayette for distinguished service in combating Communism. Others who received this award were General Curtis LeMay, Senator Frank Lauschke, and Congressman Otto Passman. Savannah residents gave a testimonial dinner in her honor, with testimonials from both Republicans and Democrats.

She was an Alternate Delegate from Georgia to the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach in 1968. She was appointed to the Board of Education of Savannah's Chatham County by Mayor J. Curtis Lewis and the Board of Aldermen. She served on the Advisory Board of the Georgia chapter of Young Americans for Freedom. She founded and served as chairman of the East Coast Youth Freedom Speakers, an organization of high school and college men and women who gave three-minute speeches voicing pride in America.

Her father and uncles, who were outstanding examples of success in our free-enterprise economy, established the Kress chain of stores. They later gave to the nation one of the major art collections of all times, of which President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "It is the greatest single gift to any government." The collection is housed in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and consists of 375 paintings, seventeen sculptures, and 1,300 bronzes which are on permanent display in 35 rooms. Other collections were placed in twenty cities in the United States including Hawaii.

Her mother, Agatha Sheehan, was the daughter of one of the five prominent Catholic families who settled Atlanta. She was a journalist who wrote for the *Atlanta Constitution* until her marriage to Claude Kress. Agatha's brother, Cornelius, in addition to being the first postmaster of Atlanta, built the house where Margaret Mitchell (Mrs. Haley's cousin) later lived and wrote *Gone with the Wind*.

In 1970, she married the prominent author, J. Evetts Haley, a staunch conservative who was known as "The Historian of the Southwest." They lived on ranches and in towns in West Texas before moving to Midland in 1977 where they resided until his death. For 18 years, they maintained a home on the island of San Miguel in the Azores.

She served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Detroit in 1980. President Reagan appointed her to UNESCO where she wrote the Minority Report, which was adopted, withdrawing the United States from membership in UNESCO.

She began assembling her extensive research library and archives in 1975. It has been on loan to four prominent universities in Texas. In 2004 Ros placed her library and archives at the Eagle Forum Education Center in St. Louis. The library is housed separately on the second floor of the Eagle Forum. An extensive collection of hundreds of political pamphlets, as well as a collection of rare books, are housed in a separate Rare Book Room. Resources from this collection are open to researchers upon application.

The archival collection was recatalogued (using the original catalogue system) and rearchived for preservation purposes. Mrs. Haley established this library and archive with the purpose that “knowledge-seekers could find the truth about America, it’s founding, and the development of forces determined to destroy the first nation founded with God’s guidance.” This is the purpose to which her father, Claude Washington Kress, asked her to devote her life: “Seek the truth and make it known.”