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### "Kenneth & Helen Spencer of Kansas: Champions of Culture & Commerce in the Sunflower State"

Kenneth Crockett

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# Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture Seventeenth Annual - October 9th, 2014

"Kenneth & Helen Spencer of Kansas: Champions of Culture & Commerce in the Sunflower State"

Presented by:

**Kenneth Crockett**

**7:00 p.m. Leonard H. Axe Library**

**Thursday, October 9th, 2014**

The Leonard H. Axe Library invites you to attend the 17th Annual Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Kenneth Crockett will speak about his new book, *Kenneth & Helen Spencer of Kansas: Champions of Culture & Commerce in the Sunflower State*, in Room 115. A reception and book signing will immediately follow the presentation.

Kenneth Spencer grew up in Pittsburg, Kansas. By the 1950s his innovations in the chemical and coal industries had earned him mention in Forbes magazine as one of the nation's great industrialists. Mr. Spencer, with his wife Helen, also created a remarkable philanthropic and cultural legacy through such places as the [Kenneth Spencer Research Library](#) and the [Helen Foresman Spencer Museum of Art](#).

Ken Crockett was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, but raised in Walker, Missouri, where his father was employed by the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company. He earned his law degree from Washburn University and practiced law for many years. His first book was titled *Missouri Coal Miners Strike*, being an account of the Spencer's seven year conflict with the United Mine Workers of America and union president John L. Lewis.