

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Dedication of Meneely Bell to honor Dr. Richard and Patricia Crinigan**

City of Watervliet Mayor Charles Patricelli announces that on Sunday (Oct. 2) a formal dedication in honor of Dr. Richard and Mrs. Patricia Crinigan, will take place at 1 p.m. at the Gazebo Park, located on Third Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

The ceremony will include the dedication of a Meneely Bell, manufactured in 1872 in the City of Watervliet, in honor of the Crinigans.

Anyone who has lived in Watervliet knows the Crinigan name is as synonymous in Port Schuyler as is a Schuyler Baker doughnut, a Ted's fish fry, Valente's pizza or St. Brigid's Church. To put it simply, the Crinigans were an institution in Port Schulyer. The Crinigan's resided for decades of their 63-year marriage on the corner of Fourth Street and Seventh Avenue, where they raised two daughters, Peggy and Mary Patricia. Dr. Richard and Pat Crinigan volunteered and donated to many causes in Watervliet, especially when it came to education, St. Brigid's parish, the Watervliet Public Library and American veterans.

Mrs. Crinigan taught math and science for more than 40 years at St. Brigid's, where she regaled students with tales of Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle while attending games at Yankee Stadium in her beloved Bronx, where she was born in 1926 and raised. She also taught students how to solve fractions, word problems and prepared them for 9th-grade algebra before they moved on to high school. Mrs. Crinigan taught and tutored hundreds, if not a thousand Port Schuyler youth, before passing in 2019.

She was the proud graduate of the Villa Maria Academy and the College of New Rochelle before going on to graduate school at Columbia University where she met her beloved husband. Dr. Richard Crinigan, better known as Dick to those who knew him well. He graduated from Columbia University College of Optometry and later received his doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Optometry. Prior to that, Dr. Crinigan graduated from Christian Brothers Academy in 1944. After graduating from CBA, he enlisted in the Navy and attended Officers' Candidate School at Dartmouth College. After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, Dr. Crinigan was a practicing optometrist in the Albany area for 50

years, retiring as chief of optometry at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. He was also active and revered in his community, serving as a President of the St. Brigid's Holy Name Society. He was honored with the Christian Brother's Academy Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003 before passing in 2016.

The ceremony will include the dedication of a Meneely Bell, manufactured by the world-famous Meneely company, which was located in Watervliet during the years 1826 to 1951. The company manufactured more than 65,000 bells and shipped them via the Hudson River and Erie Canal to churches, fire houses and fire trucks, ships, academies, lighthouses, factories and monuments located all over the world.

The bronze bell being dedicated on Sunday weighs 185 pounds, has a diameter of 22 inches and is 18 inches tall. This bell was located on the estate of Horace Edwards, who served as mayor of Richmond, Va., from 1946-48. His bid to become governor of Virginia in 1949 was unsuccessful. The bell was originally placed in a municipal building located in Richmond.

The bell was obtained by the Watervliet Historical Society, led by curator Tom Ragosta, for the City of Watervliet and its residents. Mayor Patricelli offered to place the bell at the Port Schuyler park to inform people of this city's contribution to the industrial revolution. The Crinigan family offered support to construct this memorial in honor of their parents, and with the help of several volunteers from the city, we are able to dedicate this monument in their honor.

Thank you to the Watervliet Historical Society, located at the Dutch Reformed Church at 1501 1st Avenue. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the museum to learn more about the great role Watervliet played in the industrial revolution. Special thanks to Mayor Charles Patricelli for his role in making this memorial a reality; Bill O'Brien providing all the electrical, Tom and Marylou Ragosta for providing the historical information; to Scott Boisvert, Jim Delgiacco, Mark Aragona and Bonded Concrete for the construction of this memorial; and to Peg Germano for purchasing the bell in memory of her late husband, Joe Germano.

We encourage everyone that have known the Crinigan's to come out on Sunday to meet and share their stories with the Crinigan family.