

Dr. Adriano Seabra Veiga 1921 -

"All cultures, all people, all together make a beautiful mosaic. That's what is America. All these folks together making a beautiful picture"

- Dr. Adriano Seabra Veiga

Dr. Veiga was born on October 14, 1921 in Avelãs de Caminho, Aveiro, Portugal. A 1948 graduate of the Coimbra University Medical School, he served in hospitals in Massachusetts, New York and Liverpool, England.

Moving to Waterbury in 1955, he was appointed chief surgical resident at St. Mary's Hospital and, a year later, he established private medical and surgical practices in Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Danbury.

In 1965, Dr. Veiga was appointed the Portuguese Consul for Connecticut by the Portuguese Government and President Lyndon Johnson. The main goal of the Portuguese Consulate is to promote friendly relations between the United States and Portugal while stimulating an interest in Portuguese culture, literature and folklore. Dr. Veiga assists immigrants in establishing a strong community and assimilating into American culture as they gain pride in their city. He said, "America is a country where I can feel at home. I never have had the sensation that I am an outsider. Still, I have never lost that Portuguese sense of living, the sense of nostalgia, the sense of the Portuguese people."

Over the course of thirty years Dr. Veiga has received many accolades. The Portuguese Government has honored him with the Infante D. Henrique Medal, the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator Award, the Order of Grand Official of Infante D. Henrique Award, and the Order of Merit Grand Cross. Vasco Vieira de Garin, Portuguese Ambassador to the U. S., said, "Dr. Veiga not only rendered the service to the European country, but did so while gaining the respect, affection and admiration of his community...as an outstanding physician and an indefatigable civic leader in the Portuguese-American Community in Connecticut." Dr. Veiga has been honored by the Pope with the Order of St. Gregory the Great, and designated a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, which is awarded for charitable and cultural undertakings on a worldwide basis. In 1998 Dr. Veiga received the Governor's First Immigrant Award which recognizes the major contributions of immigrants to Connecticut.

The Waterbury Community recognized his dedication and service with tributes including the Liberty Bell Award, the Humanitarian Award from Boys Town of Italy and the Man of the Year Awards from the Waterbury Bar Association, the Anderson Boys Club and the Portuguese-American Political Action Committee.

Dr. Veiga has chaired and been a member of numerous



medical, cultural and civic associations including Acting Director of the Department of Health, President and Chairman of the Board of Health for twenty-three years, President of the American Cancer Society and President of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. He also was a member of the Board of Directors for the Banking Center, Mattatuck Bank, and the Bank of Waterbury.

Dr. Veiga has been married for over forty years to his wife, Rita, and they have three children: Lisa, Paul, and Nelson. In 1962 he founded St. Rita's Chapel in Brazil to honor his wife.

Dr. Veiga has proudly proclaimed his gratification in selecting the Waterbury area to live and work, commenting that he will always keep the city and its people close to his heart. When accepting the First Immigrant Award, he stated the honor was not for him, "but for Portuguese people in the State of Connecticut. I am thankful to the Portuguese Community."