

ALBANY INSTITUTE  
OF HISTORY & ART



ANNIVERSARY  
1791-2016

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

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# SPECIAL NIGHT TO COMMEMORATE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTION OF DANIEL BUTTON

This event is co-sponsored by the Albany Institute of History & Art and the *Times Union*

ALBANY, NEW YORK —In 1966, Daniel E. Button (November 1, 1917-March 7, 2009) did the political impossible and beat the Democratic Machine in a bid for Albany’s Congressional seat. Now, fifty years later, the historic victory is the focus of a special night of activities at the Albany Institute of History & Art. In conjunction with the *Times Union*, on Wednesday, November 9 from 5:30-7:30pm, the Albany Institute will have a small reception, display a pop-up exhibition called “Dan Button: Victory!”, and host guests who will reflect on this anniversary, including author William Kennedy. This event is free to attend but requires advance registration.

In the early 1960s, Dan Button served as executive editor of the Albany Times-Union newspaper. As editor, he was known for his strong dislike of one-party political control, which was pervasive in Albany with the Democratic Machine. In 1966, when Democratic Congressman Leo O’Brien announced his retirement, Button resigned from his job as editor to challenge the Machine’s new candidate for Congress. He surprised the system when he won the election as a Republican in the traditionally Democratic district. He served two terms in Congress. His memoir *Victory! A Memoir of 1966* was published in 2009.



Caricature of Dan Button, Hy Rosen, 1969, Gelatin silver print, AIHA Library, Daniel Button Papers, MG247B1F3, DI 1108

The pop-up exhibition Dan Button: Victory! draws from an archive collection of over 500 items recently donated to the museum by Nancy Button Nathan, daughter of Dan Button. The collection contains manuscripts and printed materials dating from 1952 to 2009, the year of Button's death. The contents of the collection relate primarily to Button's years residing in Albany and the rise of his political career and community engagement. This exhibition contains 65 items including original cartoons, a contemporary map of the New York 29<sup>th</sup> District, photographs, campaign materials, buttons, and letters. It is organized chronologically and highlights Button's affiliations with the State University of New York and the Times Union, his 1966 election, his time in Congress and his re-election campaigns, his time after Congress, the publication of his memoir, and more. The exhibition was curated by library volunteers Phoebe Bender, Carina Comiskey, Linda Simkin, Vicary Thomas, and Claire Yates.



Dan Button Protesters, Unidentified photographer, c. 1969, Newspaper clipping, AIHA Library, MG247B2F11, DI 1109

The event will include remarks by Rex Smith, editor of the Times Union; Daniel Button's daughter, Nancy Button Nathan; Paul Grondahl, writer at the Times Union; and award winning author William Kennedy. Kennedy wrote the preface for Button's memoir and will read it at this event. Remarks will begin at 6:15pm.

Attendees must register by calling the Albany Institute at (518) 463-4478 ext 403 or by going to the event listing on the museum's online calendar.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the new Crisan Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. In addition, in 2016 admission will be \$2.25 on Saturdays as part of the museum's 225 anniversary celebration. To learn about other discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org).

For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than

35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19<sup>th</sup> century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute).