

LEGACIES

By Natalie Taylor, Deputy Director of Development

Personal legacies can take many forms, including a happy family, successful business, or philanthropic activities. The Heinz History Center's commemorative tile program invites contributors to honor family, friends, and others by placing a handsome tile bearing the name or names of the honoree(s) within the History Center, along with a written tribute. Tiles truly make the honoree part of Western Pennsylvania history. The Heinz History Center benefits from the generosity of its supporters through these and other legacy gifts such as bequests.

Many of the tributes offer touching personal stories. Here are just a few:


"Like many other Italian immigrants, Frank P. and Rosina came to America in the early 1900s to make a new life for themselves. Frank worked many years at Freedom Valvoline, and Rosina made a home for her husband and seven children. Frank and Rosina were married for 68 years. Their life in America was a good one. Their day to day lives together were made up of those small moments, which, after time, become special memories. Except for their golden wedding announcement in the local newspaper, they never held a spotlight. They were content in the knowledge that they had made a home in America and had blessed it and the entire Primo family with cherished Italian traditions." – Submitted by Jeffery D.

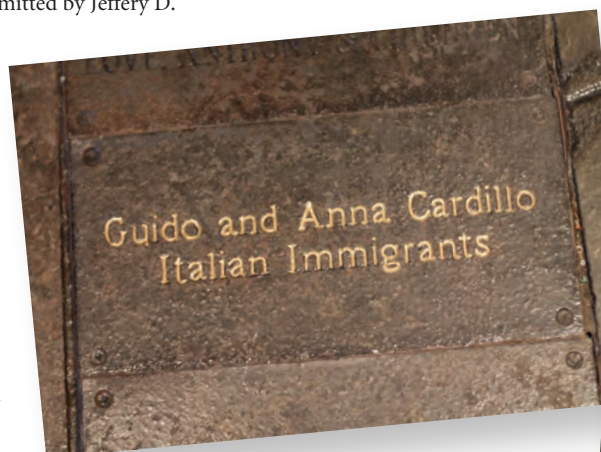
"As a child, he came alone by train to stay with relatives in Hazelwood. Later, he drove his dad to Pirate games. They stayed at the Schenley and brought extra white collars because the air was so dirty. Twice a year, his family came to Horne's to shop. He went first, then the boy. Then off they went to see the city, always starting at the top of the Gulf Building. Later, when the girl needed many trips to Children's, he kept spirits high with a fancy dinner on the way home. Once Bill Burns was in the same restaurant, he asked if the children could meet the famous man and Burns was very gracious. He took the girl and her best friend to an All Star Game at Forbes Field. At the 1958 Testimonial Dinner for the Pirates, he collected autographs. Years passed before the girl noticed that her favorite, Bill Mazeroski's, looked suspiciously like his writing.

He liked Phipps and the Carnegie; but in the Final years, he loved best to take the family to the Grand Concourse where he would remember riding the train from Oakland, Maryland, and tell his stories of coming to Pittsburgh for seventy-five years." – Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert D.

"Frank D. proudly served in the army from 1941-1945 achieving the rank of staff sergeant. He served and fought on the D-Day invasion and the famous Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded and for which he received a Purple Heart. A true patriot, Frank remains a member of the Western PA Branch of the 4th Infantry Division and the Catholic War Veterans Society. In 1944, while on leave, he met his future wife Regina and they married on May 22nd, 1946.

In addition to many personal and professional accomplishments, Frank annually managed to find time to dress as Santa Claus for all of the children in our family. No one could give a "ho, ho, ho" quite as good as he. His trademark of sneaking a dollar into our small hands always made us feel so grown up. Uncle Frank's positive spirit and love for children touched each of our lives. We are proud that he is our uncle and thank him for the many wonderful memories he has given us." – The Children of Joseph and Eleanor D.

These and all the tributes will be available online next year as part of a new section on the History Center's web site. For more information about leaving a legacy at the History Center through a bequest, commemorative tile, life insurance, or other gift, please contact Natalie Taylor, Deputy Director of Development, at (412) 454-6325 or ngtaylor@heinzhistorycenter.org. 



Photos by Emma Neely.

