

LEGACIES

By Elizabeth A. McMullen,
Senior Development Associate

Carol Szazynski stands next to her husband's plaque installed in the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum on September 9, 2015.
Photo by Elizabeth A. McMullen.

Each person, family, neighborhood, and town has a unique history to tell. The Senator John Heinz History Center shares those stories of Western Pennsylvanians in many ways—through exhibitions, programs, publications, and even commemorative items. We feel it is important to give people the opportunity to share their own story, leaving a legacy for future generations.

Mrs. Carol Szazynski shared the story of her husband Tim Szazynski with a plaque on our Black and Gold Wall, located at the entrance of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum. The simple inscription reads: "Tim Szazynski, Lawrenceville Tigers Baseball." For those who remember "Tiger" Tim and the championship baseball team, the plaque has the power to evoke great memories of competition and camaraderie.

As Mrs. Szazynski reminisced:

As the wife of "Tiger" Tim, I have everlasting memories of the Federation League Lawrenceville Tigers baseball games at Leslie Park on 46th & Butler Street. It is now called McGrane Field. In 1959, Tim Szazynski organized the team and was the manager, catcher, and groundskeeper. He was known as "Mr. Sandlot" in the City of Pittsburgh.

On September 30, 1962, a picture was published of Governor David L. Lawrence giving a trophy to the Lawrenceville Tiger Team in the State Office Building in Philadelphia. The Tigers won the Greater Pittsburgh League Shanesey Playoff.



From 1965 to 1969, Lawrenceville dominated the Fed League, winning five straight titles. In 1969, the Tigers of Pittsburgh won the Annual National Amateur Baseball Federation Senior Championship in Buffalo, New York. They defeated the Buffalo Cardinals before 3,000 fans.

The final year for the Lawrenceville Tigers was 1971. Thirteen years of baseball history came to a close, but memories are everlasting. Thank you Lawrenceville Tigers Baseball Team.

The History Center enjoyed getting to know Mrs. Szazynski and learning more about the Lawrenceville Tigers. As Mrs. Szazynski expressed:

Thank you Heinz History Center for giving me the ability to purchase a commemorative plaque to give recognition to my Heavenly husband Tim Szazynski and the Lawrenceville Tigers Baseball Team. I am gifted to have been given the option to be present during installation of the plaque on the second floor and to invite family and friends.



Lawrenceville Tigers team photo, 1969.
Carol Szazynski.

A commemorative item truly makes the honoree part of Western Pennsylvania history. For more information about leaving a legacy at the History Center through a bequest, commemorative tile, time capsule, life insurance, or other gift please contact Elizabeth McMullen, Senior Development Associate, at eamcmullen@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6445.