

LEGACIES

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Each person has their own history, their own mark that they leave on the world. Pittsburgh's history is the story of its people—talented, strong, and unique. It is the story of explorers, innovators, sports legends, and the everyday people who built this country. The History Center provides great opportunities for all Western Pennsylvanians to leave their legacy for future generations.

One legacy opportunity is through the Heinz History Center's commemorative tile program, which allows contributors to honor family, friends, and members of their community by placing a handsome tile bearing the name or names of the honoree(s) within the History Center, along with a written tribute. A commemorative tile truly makes the honoree part of Western Pennsylvania history.

Family stories often play a large role in the tile tributes here at the History Center. Here are three excerpts from the many wonderful family tributes:

Dad was ten years old when grandpap handed him a basket of green onions grown on the family farm and sent him out to sell door-to-door in Mt. Oliver. Over the years, Dad was a high-pressure pipe welder at Dravo, served with honor and distinction in the Army during World War II, married Agnes Racki and together they built King's Produce Company.... Dad did the buying and selling; Mom kept the books, paid the bills, did the banking, taxes,

food stamps, and payroll. Our parents never made headlines. Day-by-day, they fed countless college students and laborers, housed those "passing-by" and dedicated themselves to St. John Capistran Church in Upper St. Clair. Their hard work, honesty and perseverance through bad times and generous sharing in good times were exemplary. They had enough love for everyone! ~ Zadrozny

The year is 1901. Two young immigrants, one from Yugoslavia and one from Hungary, travel a perilous journey to the New World. After six weeks on a tempestuous sea, the Statue of Liberty comes into view—a glorious symbol of freedom in the eyes of all immigrants.... Ten years later in Central City, Pa., at a mining camp, their paths crossed, and they fell in love. In 1913, they married and moved to Pittsburgh in search of a new life.... Through hard work and

endless hours, the business prospered and the family enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle. Our parents came to America with visions of unlimited possibilities and they experienced the good life that America offered them, yet they never forgot from whence they came. ~ Yaksich

Later in life, our parents, who had rarely left the North Side for 60 years, began to travel the world. Everywhere they traveled they were magnets for people who couldn't speak their language or understand their culture, but who could sense the connection. The traveler's joy was unbounded. But when we drove toward the Pittsburgh skyline from the airport, the response was always the same: "It's good to be home." Pittsburgh and our parents deserve to be together. Each providing strength and love; each continuously growing; each savoring their roots; each cherishing the future. Each an important part of history. ~ Ross

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 412-454-6445 or eamcmullen@heinzhistorycenter.org.



Fort Pitt Bridge under construction, 1958.
HHC Detre L&A, Allegheny Conference on Community Development Photographs 1892-1981, MSP 285.



Pittsburgh children salute the flag, 1925.
HHC Detre L&A, Irone Kaufmann Settlement Photos 1897-1946, MSP 78.