

LEGACIES

By Elizabeth A. McMullen,
Senior Development Associate



Frank and Eileen Chiprich.
Courtesy of Frank and Eileen Chiprich.

Frank and Eileen (Scrip) Chiprich

The Senator John Heinz History Center loves to see our members enjoying all our museums have to offer, from exciting new exhibitions to innovative programs. Active members and frequent participants of the *Hop into History* program, Frank and Eileen Chiprich are a great example of how families are learning and playing together here at the History Center.

Frank and Eileen were born and have lived their entire lives in Western Pennsylvania. Their interests center in the arts (including music, theater, and dance), travel, history, reading, dancing, gardening, sports, and their grandchildren. The Chiprichs

joined the History Center to take advantage of the ongoing and special exhibitions at our museums, the *Western Pennsylvania History* magazine, and the newsletter. They also enjoy the perk of being a Smithsonian member as they travel. Frank and Eileen shared that they visit the History Center at least once for each new exhibition—sometimes returning several times, as they did with *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s*—and regularly explore the permanent exhibitions. They also bring their granddaughter to participate in the monthly *Hop into History* program.

How did you learn about the Hop into History Program?

Our daughter brought our attention to Hop into History as we babysit on Wednesdays. The monthly program is well structured and appropriately themed with hands-on activities for the 45-minute session. Our granddaughter looks forward to attending (as do we!) and sharing time with Lynda, Mariruth, and Nate.

What do you enjoy most about the History Center?

The Mister Rogers display is always a favorite of ours with or without our grandchildren, no matter how many times we visit. Trips to Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village and Members Day have been utilized and are looked forward to. Visits to the Fort Pitt Museum and participation in the flag folding ceremony at Fort Pitt and the History Center have also been memorable experiences for us and our grandchildren.

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Frank and Eileen participate in the Hop Into History program inside the *Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation* exhibit.
HHC Education Division.

Do you remember your first visit to the History Center?

Our first visit to the Heinz History Center was years ago, shortly after opening in the Strip District, with our children. We are Byzantine Catholic and recall fondly when our family (parents, siblings, and our children) attended an exhibit in 1999 of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese marking their 75th anniversary. It included an altar of the first bishop of Pittsburgh, icons, vestments, and liturgical items.

How do you stay connected with the History Center?

The History Center newsletter, mailed quarterly, keeps us “up to date” on events, presentations, and news. The calendar of events is a handy reference for upcoming events and happenings. The e-newsletter is used as well for an easy go to reference guide. We are anxiously awaiting the next edition!



Museum visitors, including Eileen and Frank at right, lend a hand at the Veteran's Day flag folding ceremony.

Photo by Rachellynn Schoen.

Like many other visitors to the History Center, Frank and Eileen enjoy learning, playing, and making memories with friends and family, especially their children and grandchildren. They are also drawn back time and again by the unique experiences offered: “The atmosphere of the History Center is most appealing to us, making it our favorite Pittsburgh museum.”

For more information on becoming a member or to give the gift of membership to someone you know, contact Shirley Gaudette, Membership Manager, at 412-454-6436 or sagaudette@heinzhistorycenter.org.