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Monessen Mayor Hopes to Restore War Memorial

MONESSEN – While going through old family photos a few weeks ago, Mayor Matt Shorraw found two old photos of a war memorial that once sat at the corner of Marion Avenue and Grand Boulevard in the front yard of Monessen’s Hilltop Fire Station. One photo was his grandmother Irene Shorraw in front of the war memorial, pictured with a friend of hers, and a child in the middle. The second photo is of the memorial decorated for Memorial Day. The photos were likely taken in the 1950’s.

Today, that World War II Memorial, called “Toussaint’s Corner” is sitting up against an outside wall of the fire station. Mayor Shorraw would like to generate interest and donations to place it back at its prominent corner and have it rededicated. The memorial was struck by a vehicle decades ago and was never put back. It once had a surround of glass blocks, with lights – typical of the era it was built. The only remaining piece is the stone tablet, depicting last names such as, Bielecki, Francowic, Koltash, Siarnicki and Zilka, to name a few.

Mayor Shorraw hopes to get some volunteers together, and some materials donated to have the stone tablet moved back to its original base, and illuminated once again. Safeguards would also be put in place to ensure a vehicle cannot strike it again.

Mayor Shorraw said, “I’ve often thought about finding volunteers to put the memorial back in its place, but when I found the photo of it in my family album at home, I knew it was something I had to accomplish. I hope we can find enough interest, in order to get this initiative done.”

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