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Pittsburgh rededicating road that honors WWI vets

The Associated Press

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PITTSBURGH: This city recognized its World War I veterans in 1922 by dedicating one of its main thoroughfares in honor of those who fought in what was supposed to be Europe's "war to end all wars."

Ninety years after the end of World War I, the city will rededicate the Boulevard of the Allies on Sunday in a day of events meant to honor all veterans. The celebration will include visits from foreign dignitaries, a flyover by the U.S. Air Force's 911th Airlift Wing and a 21-gun salute.

The rededication started as an effort by Romel Nicholas, an attorney and board member of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. Volunteers "quietly assembled" the day's events and now expect thousands to attend, Nicholas said.

"The essence and the theme is really to honor veterans," Nicholas said.

The street was once known as the Monongahela Boulevard because it parallels the river of the same name. The road connects downtown to the city's Oakland neighborhood, home to several colleges and universities, including Pitt and Carnegie Mellon.

For Sunday's celebration, the boulevard will be lined with American flags and flags of the war's dozens of Allied nations. Representatives from 11 of those countries will attend, including authorities from France, Greece, New Zealand, Canada, Guatemala and South Africa.

The day coincides with the completion of the first ever Tour of Pennsylvania bicycle race, which ends downtown at the Boulevard of the Allies. The race and the tribute to veterans are both part of the city's celebration of its 250th birthday.

On the Net:

<http://www.downtownpittsburgh.com>

<http://www.imaginepittsburgh.com>