



**The University of Pittsburgh Military Veterans Initiatives Group (MVI) Community Outreach Efforts
for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Veterans**

**A Celebration to Honor the One Hundred Year Anniversary of the Organization of the Veterans of
Foreign Wars (VFW)**

**16 September 2014 from 1130-1400 hours
William Pitt Union, Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh**

In September 1914, at the former Schenley Hotel (now the William Pitt Union), the Veterans of Foreign Wars officially organized into the VFW as currently known. This event is documented by the Pennsylvania Historic Society roadside marker located on Fifth Avenue, across from Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Pittsburgh. The marker reads - "The Veterans of Foreign Wars organized September 14-17, 1914, at the former Schenley Hotel near here. Veterans who had served in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and China were among its founders."

Based on the strength of the VFW in Allegheny County with 44 active VFW Posts, and the sustained commitment of the City of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh to veterans, a large group of interested organizations have formed to organize and plan a Centennial Celebration of the VFW on 16 September 2014 at the former Schenley Hotel.

The 16 September 2014 VFW Centennial Celebration event has the active support of the Chancellor's Office at the University of Pittsburgh which has funded the Pitt History Department to conduct research on the events leading up to the amalgamation of the VFW in 1914.

Groups invited to participate at the 16 September 2014 event include: VFW representatives from the national and local offices, to include the Ladies Auxiliary; Soldiers and Sailors Hall representatives; Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units; Pitt Office of Veteran Services and Student Veterans Association; Pittsburgh VA; local philanthropic and political leaders.

Planned activities include: wreath laying at the Historic marker on Fifth Avenue by the VFW national leader John Biedryzcki and University of Pittsburgh Chancellor; lunch at the William Pitt Union Ballroom with featured guest speaker – Jack Wagner; and a centennial metal plaque dedication ceremony at the William Pitt Union by VFW leaders with the Pitt Chancellor.

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