



DENVER POLICE
MUSEUM

Annual Report



2024



DENVER POLICE MUSEUM

Founded in 2008,

the Denver Police Museum is a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond. We accomplish our mission by creating opportunities for community understanding and engagement, strengthening the city’s relationship with the community, and educating youth to inspire community involvement, responsibility, and a future generation of law enforcement professionals.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

2024 was a momentous year for the Denver Police Museum as well as for the Denver Police Department. The Denver Police Department, founded in 1859, marked its 165th anniversary on December 19, 2024.

The Museum increased the number of guided tours of the archiving center, located at Denver Police Headquarters at 1331 Cherokee, serving nearly 400 people. Visitors spent an average of 60- to 90-minutes touring the Museum, hearing historic stories, seeing historic Denver Police artifacts, and learning about the importance of Public Safety in our community. A special acknowledgement to retired Denver Police Officers Barb Cisneros and Chris Hoag for the outstanding tours given to our visitors!

Museum visitors came from throughout the Denver Metro area as well as from cities across the United States, including from New York, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle—many of whom are active law enforcement officers or active military law enforcement. We also welcomed a number of international visitors in 2024, including visitors from Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom (Scotland Yard), Ireland, and China.

Volunteers continue to be the backbone of the Denver Police Museum giving nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer service in 2024—an incredible demonstration of commitment to our mission. Museum volunteers were involved in a variety of critical tasks including marketing, newsletter production, strategic advice, archiving of historic artifacts, research, event planning and implementation, youth programs, and fundraising, including collecting donations for challenge coins and holiday ornaments.

As we look back at 2024, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers, our wonderful retirees, our nearly 900 active officers who support the Museum through payroll deductions, and the nearly 200 individuals who formally support our mission as members. We expect 2025 to be another outstanding year for our Museum and hope you will join us for the many historic programs, youth activities, and community events we are planning!

Sincerely,

THE DENVER POLICE MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Michael Hesse, President
Linda Remley, Recording Secretary
April Overman, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Sgt. Dean Christopherson
Rosie Siemer
Alejandra Major
Ex Officio: Chris Hoag

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of the Denver Police Department, I want to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the Denver Police Museum to our department and City.

In 2024, the Denver Police Department celebrated its 165th anniversary, a significant milestone in our history and a reminder of the strong legacy of our department. The Denver Police Museum played a vital role in commemorating this historic anniversary.

As a police department, we vow to never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and the Denver Police Museum continues to help us honor our fallen officers. In 2024, we welcomed the families of Thomas Clifford and William Griffiths, officers who were tragically killed in the line of duty in 1899, as we gathered to honor their service. The families' presence at the placement of memorial signs during Police Week was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our officers.

Furthermore, the Denver Police Museum was instrumental in honoring the service of our two Denver Police Surgeons, Dr. Frank Dulin who was killed in 1905 and Dr. Robert Campbell who died in 1936. In August, alongside the Denver Medical Society, we dedicated memorial signs to these esteemed individuals, a testament to their dedication to our city.

The Denver Police Department applauds the Denver Police Museum's commitment to educating and inspiring future generations through their work with Denver's youth. Their collaboration with Denver Public Schools on youth programs with a STEM emphasis, involving key units such as Traffic, SWAT, Vice, and the Crime Lab, provide invaluable experiences for young people and foster a positive relationship between the community and the police department.

Lastly, we appreciate the Denver Police Museum's "Legacy Project" which honors multi-generational service to the DPD and continues to be a powerful testament to the dedication and sacrifice of our officers and their families. This year, we were honored to recognize the Dill and Haney families, as well as many trailblazers during Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

We are truly pleased to continue this important partnership with the Denver Police Museum, as they serve as a vital resource for preserving and sharing the rich history of the Denver Police Department, honoring our fallen heroes, and educating the public about the challenges and triumphs of law enforcement. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with an eye on the future, while recognizing and celebrating our past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Thomas", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Ron Thomas
Chief of Police



DENVER POLICE TRAILBLAZERS

The Denver Police Museum is proud to recognize the many contributions made by our Denver Police trailblazers.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year

In February 2024, the Museum partnered with the Denver Asian community, the Denver Police Department, and the GDPT Nguyen Thieu Buddhist Youth Association to host a special event to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The unveiling of the new Denver Police Lion was the highlight of the event. The Lion, a traditional symbol of good luck and fortune in the Asian community, was created by Denver Police Officer Tim Tran.

The event featured a traditional ceremony that involves bringing the lion to life. Officer Tran stated that the Lion would provide the Denver Police Department with important opportunities for outreach in the community for many years. Officer Tran also noted that Denver is one of only three police departments in the United States to have a Lion comprised of police officers, with San Francisco and Houston being the other two cities with similar programs. At the event, traditional dancing was performed by GDPT Nguyen Thieu youth group dancers, and the Museum was privileged to be joined by many Asian Denver Police trailblazers, including retired Denver Police Commander Art Arita, the first Asian Denver Command Officer, retired Denver Police Officer Patty Jung, the first Asian woman to serve as a Denver Police Officer, Bee Ling, who coordinated the Denver Police Chief's office for many years, and the first Asian woman to attend the FBI Academy in Washington. Additionally, the family of the late Denver Police Officer Jim Nakagawa, the first Asian Denver Police Officer, were in attendance.



Black History Month

The Denver Police Museum was excited to continue our longstanding partnership with the Denver Black Officers Organization and Denver's Blair-Caldwell African American



Research Library to honor Denver's first black Chief, Robert C. White. A special thank you to Channel 9 photojournalist, Byron Reed, for his outstanding coverage of this historic event.

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DENVER POLICE TRAILBLAZERS (CONT.)

Women's History Month

In March 2024, the Museum hosted a historic event honoring a Colorado icon—Denver's first police woman/matron Sadie Likens. The Museum was honored to be joined by History Colorado and the Women's History Museum for a series of memorable events recognizing Likens's legacy. We were thrilled that Ms. Likens's great grandson Quentin and his wife Ginger Young travelled from Indiana to participate in these events. State Senator Robert Gardner, sponsored a special proclamation before the Colorado State Senate and the Denver City Council enacted a tribute to Ms. Likens.

Ms. Likens played a very important role in the development of our state and has a memorial on the state capitol grounds honoring her service to our community. To further recognize Ms. Likens's service to Colorado and her role in the history of policing, the Museum placed a memorial sign in her honor at the corner of Colfax and Lincoln Street. A special thank you to volunteer Jeff Burke for his research on Ancestry.com that enabled the Museum to locate Quentin and Ginger Young.



Hispanic Heritage Month



In September 2024, the Museum continued its partnership with the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA) to honor retired Denver Police Commander and Sheridan Police Chief, Jeffrey Martinez, for his many achievements and his outstanding service to the citizens of the City and County of Denver. A special thank you to Former National President of NLPOA, retired Denver Police Lieutenant and current Severance Police Chief, Ken Chavez, for his continued support for this event.



NATIONAL POLICE MUSEUM CONFERENCE



In April 2024, the Denver Police Museum joined colleagues in Washington, D.C. for the first national conference of the North American Association of Law Enforcement Museums. A large number of police museums attended the conference, including organizations from the United States and Canada. The conference was hosted by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Memorial and Museum, DEA Museum, FBI Experience, and National Law Enforcement Museum and Memorial. The Denver Police Museum was represented by

Mike Hesse, President; April Overman, Treasurer; and Rosie Siemer, Board Member. President Mike Hesse was delighted to be invited to present to the group about our exceptional fallen officer program. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to tour the participating museums, exchange ideas, and share strategies. A special thank you to the Cleveland Police Museum for their assistance in organizing the conference and for the important role they played in founding the Association.

COLORADO ROCKIES PARTNERSHIP

The Museum was honored to continue our partnership with the Colorado Rockies for the 2024 season. The Rockies donated nearly 1,500 free tickets to home games throughout the season to recognize the service of Museum volunteers, retired and active officers, and career service employees. This wonderful gift from the Rockies provides multi-generational police families and volunteers with an opportunity to enjoy a baseball game together and make lasting memories.



NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Denver Office of Special Events who assist the Museum in ensuring that the Denver City and County Building is lit blue during National Police Week. This visual acknowledgement of our fallen officers and the nearly 8,000 individuals who have served our city as Denver Police Officers is critical for highlighting the important role of public safety in our community.

In 2024, the Museum was fortunate to be joined by the families of two fallen Denver Police Officers who lost their lives in 1899. The Clifford-Suarez and Griffiths families participated in events honoring their great

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK (CONT.)

grandfathers. Officers Thomas Clifford and William Griffiths were both killed in August of 1899 in lower downtown Denver. When this tragedy occurred, it was the first occasion in Denver Police history when more than one officer lost their life during a single incident. The Museum placed memorial signs honoring each officer at Coors Field, near the location of the tragedy.

We wish to thank Stacey Hervey and the students of CEC Early College for their fundraising efforts to purchase the signs and retired Denver Police Officer and Colorado Rockies Security Director Tony Lopez for his assistance in helping to make the event a success. Unfortunately, neither officer had a headstone marking their final resting place so the Museum led the effort to design and install permanent headstones to acknowledge Officer Clifford's and Griffin's sacrifice. We would like to acknowledge D. Deorio & Sons Memorials, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, and Fairmount Cemetery, for their help in designing and installing the headstones.



LEGACY PROJECT 2024

National Police Week provided the backdrop for the Denver Police Museum's efforts to celebrate Denver Police families with multi-generational service to the Department. In 2024, we honored the many years of service from the Haney and the Dill families. The Denver City Council issued two proclamations acknowledging their outstanding service to the citizens of the City and County of Denver.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DENVER POLICE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

The Museum is truly honored to have a wonderful partnership with the Denver Police Retiree Association. Retirees provide important stories and first-hand accounts of many important milestones in the Denver Police Department's history. In 2024, we greatly appreciated the opportunity to co-host several events throughout the year. Some highlights include:

The Order

A special presentation by Denver City Councilman Kevin Flynn, a former reporter at the Rocky Mountain News and co-author of the book, *The Silent Brotherhood: The Chilling Inside Story of America's Violent, Anti-Government Militia Movement*, outlined the 1984 murder of Denver talk show host, Alan Berg, by members of a white supremacist group. A film based on Councilman Flynn's book entitled *The Order* was released in 2024.

The Real Role That DNA Plays in Solving Crime

A compelling presentation by former Denver District Attorney, Mitch Morrissey, and Denver Crime Lab Director, Dr. Gregory LaBerge, provided a riveting behind the scenes look into the many advances of DNA in law enforcement investigations and the criminal justice system. A history buff, Morrissey has also written a book entitled *Denver District Attorney's Office: A History of Crime in the Mile High City (1869-2021)*.

Steinmark Tribute

Honoring the life and legacy of the late Denver Police Detective Freddie Steinmark, a special tribute event included a screening of the film *My All American*, which tells an important part of the Steinmark Legacy. Officer Steinmark served the city of Denver from 1955 to 1983 as an original dog handler in 1959 and as a bodyguard for Denver Mayor William McNichols. The movie, *My All American*, showcases the significant contributions that the Steinmark Family made to our community and nation. Detective Steinmark and his son were both talented athletes who reflected the character of true sportsmanship. Today, the Steinmark Award honors those student-athletes who excel in competition, in the classroom, and in their communities. Officer Steinmark's son, Freddie Joe, was



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PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DENVER POLICE RETIREE ASSOCIATION (CONT.)

Steinmark Tribute (cont.)

diagnosed with bone cancer in 1969 and died in 1971. His story inspired President Nixon to declare a War on Cancer and moved Congress to pass the National Cancer Act. As a result, the National Cancer Institute was created. The Museum and retirees were honored to be able to present a Denver flag and Detective Steinmark's ID photos to his family at the event.



The Tony Lopez Story

The Museum and retirees hosted a special event featuring Denver Police Sergeant Tony Lopez, who shared his story of bravery and recovery after he was seriously wounded in a shooting at 37th and Federal on December 8, 2015. Retired Detective Michael Martinez also provided important insight into the investigation of the shooting. Sergeant Lopez gave an inspiring talk about the challenges he faced returning to duty. He was joined by his wife and children and was later presented with a replica 1915 Denver Police Badge by the Denver Police Museum.

BUILDING OUR COLLECTION

When the general public thinks about museums, their collections of historic artifacts are always top of mind. The Denver Police Museum was honored to add a number of important artifacts to our collection in 2024, including badges, police buttons, historic photographs, police cars, and firearms. One very significant item was donated to the Museum in 2024 by the late Marie Dill, wife of former Denver Police Chief Art Dill—a handgun given to Chief Dill by the late Elvis Presley in 1976.



This gun is a commemorative gun designed to honor the victims of World War I on the 50th Anniversary of the conflict. Presley had a well-known relationship with the Denver Police Department, receiving honorary Lieutenant and Captain badges during his lifetime.



Another major contribution was the donation of a 1998 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. The car was donated by the Waller Family who were Denver residents living in the complex in 1997 where Denver Police Officer Bruce VanderJagt lost his life. While they did not know Officer VanderJagt personally, they continue to be touched by his sacrifice. To memorialize his sacrifice, the Museum had the hood of the car wrapped with the names of our 77 fallen officers. We also added Officer VanderJagt's badge

number and memorial sign on the car. The Crown Victoria joins the Museum's historic vehicle fleet which includes a 1930 Model A and 1964 Ford Galaxie 500. These historic vehicles play an important role in community and youth outreach for the Museum.

HONORING OUR FALLEN DENVER POLICE OFFICERS

77 officers have been killed in the line of duty over the Denver Police Department's 165-year history. With these stories spanning many generations, it's understandable that the Department has lost contact with most of the fallen officers' families. Since its founding in 2008, the Museum has made reconnecting with fallen officer families a priority. Through intensive research through Ancestry.com, we've had remarkable success. Today, the Museum has made contact with 35 of the 77 families, and we continue to actively search for the remaining families.

The Museum honors, remembers, and celebrates the lives of Denver law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Through our ongoing Memorial Services, including placement of memorial signs at the locations where the officers lost their lives, wreath laying at gravesites, supporting the families of Fallen Officers, and telling the stories of their sacrifice, the Museum works to commemorate their courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to preserving our safety. In the last several years, we have placed nearly 50 memorial signs.



Honoring Fallen Officer Elmer Rich 97 Years After His Death

In March 2024, the Museum was joined by the family of fallen Denver Police Officer Elmer Rich as we placed his memorial sign at 3511 Jason Street in Denver. Officer Rich was killed on March 23, 1927 while responding to a domestic violence call. He was survived by his young wife and a 10 month-old child.



Remembering Two of Denver's Police Surgeons



In August 2024, the Museum was honored to be joined by the Denver Medical Society to host the families of two Denver police surgeons who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Prior to the advent of paramedics, police officers would often co-respond with police surgeons if it appeared that the call involved injuries. This co-response allowed victims to receive necessary medical attention before being transported to the hospital. On two occasions, police surgeons were killed responding to a call. The first was Dr. Frank Dulin on March 14, 1905 who was killed along with Denver Police Captain William Bohanna in Denver's first recorded mass shooting resulting from a long simmering neighborhood dispute. In 1936, Denver Police surgeon Robert Campbell was killed in an auto accident on his way to work in a bad snow storm.

We were pleased to be joined by surviving family members from both the Dulin and Campbell families. The Denver Medical Society was a wonderful partner for this event, providing an opportunity to share the history of their sacrifice with the Denver medical community.



YOUTH PROGRAMS...

An important part of the mission of the Denver Police Museum is to ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and pave the way for bright futures for our Denver youth. The Museum's programs offer an exciting gateway into the worlds of criminal justice, law enforcement, and forensic science. Through engaging, hands-on experiences, we blend the thrill of discovery with programs that provide essential opportunities for career exploration, trust-building, and safety education.

At the heart of our Youth Programs lies our commitment to:

- **Exploration:** Sparking curiosity and creating pathways for career exploration in criminal justice, law enforcement, and forensic science.
- **Connection:** Building trust and fostering positive relationships between youth and law enforcement.
- **Education:** Equipping youth with the best skills, knowledge, and experiences to stay safe and avoid criminal behavior.

Through the leadership of Denver Police Museum Treasurer, Youth Programs Director and retired 911 Operator April Overman, the Museum has provided enriching experiences that encourage youth to consider a diverse array of career opportunities while improving their perceptions of law enforcement. As the Museum continues to grow in our role as a community partner, it is imperative that we not only seek to preserve and expand our understanding of the past, but that we also strive to positively impact the future.



...CREATE POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Museum Excels in Delivering Enriching Youth Programs

The Museum continues to offer our award-winning programs to Denver youth. Covering a wide range of topics and experiences, the Museum's programs reach youth in kindergarten through high school. In 2024, the Museum served 676 students through 22 programs focused on career exploration; public safety education; science, technology, engineering, math (STEM); history; and health and wellness.

Incorporating fun and interactive learning, our programs deliver age-appropriate content including, 911 emergency response education and police communications, the criminal justice system, police tech with the bomb squad and real time crime center (RTCC), and health and wellness with the METRO/SWAT team.

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YOUTH PROGRAMS... (CONT.)



Traffic Safety Program

Through the efforts of retired Denver Police Officer Barb Cisneros and the Denver Police Traffic Division, the Museum has successfully expanded our Traffic Safety program for young drivers. The program aims to prevent deaths and serious injuries on roadways by educating youth about traffic safety, traffic laws, what to do if they are involved in an accident, and how to handle a traffic stop.



Forensic Science Lab

One of the Museum's most popular programs is our forensic science program which offers middle school students the chance to follow the evidence and determine who committed a fictitious crime. The Denver Police Museum, in partnership with the Denver Police Crime Lab and Denver Police Department, has hosted several Girl Scout Troops for our forensic science program, which gave the troops the necessary credentials to qualify for their Detective Badge. Designed to teach students the basic science involved in solving crimes, participants learn about dusting for and identifying fingerprints, chromatography, blood type analysis, and fiber analysis.

High School Field Trips

The Denver Vice Squad provides an important aspect of high school field trips focused on the dangers of illicit drugs. The presence of Fentanyl in many drugs purchased on the internet has resulted in drug use becoming the leading cause of death for individuals between 17 and 45. CDC figures show that in 2022, more than 110,000 Americans died from drug overdoses due to Fentanyl.

"This program is both informative and engaging, and allows students a safe environment in which they can learn about traffic safety and how to handle situations they might face as drivers and if they are pulled over by the police. The program also provides students with an opportunity to see officers in another environment outside of the narrative that they often hear at school and in their communities. To hear my students come back from this program and share out safety tips while also talking about how 'normal' police officers are is something that can't be measured fiscally."

– Stacey Hervey, Senior Team Lead,
Teacher—Criminal Justice/Forensics, CEC Early College



Prior to their participation in each program and immediately after, the Museum surveys students to measure the impact of our programs. The data we collect through these surveys helps us to provide important feedback to our financial supporters and allows the Museum to demonstrate that we are moving the needle on important metrics such as trust in law enforcement and career interest.

In 2024, the Museum was proud to have the support of numerous organizations and foundations who make our programs possible, including The Anschutz Foundation, the E-470 Public Highway Authority Transportation Safety Foundation, the AAA-The Auto Club Group Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Law Enforcement Credit Union, Canvas Foundation, and several private family foundations.

We are incredibly grateful for the partnership of Denver Public Schools, DPS Spark Early Career Exploration Program, Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Public Schools, Warren Tech in Jefferson County, and Escalante-Biggs Academy. We are also fortunate to have the support of several public safety agencies including the Denver Police Department, Denver 911, Denver Police Traffic Division, METRO/SWAT, the Denver Bomb Squad, the Denver District Attorney's

Office, the Denver Police Vice Squad, and the Denver Crime Lab. The willingness and enthusiasm of our incredibly busy public safety partners to prioritize these programs cannot be overstated—without you, the Museum's youth outreach would not be possible, and we are delighted to report that our programs are making a positive impact in our communities.

"The Denver Public Schools Spark Career Exploration Program has greatly valued its partnership with the Denver Police Museum. Through this collaboration, the Museum has hosted numerous engaging events, impacting over a thousand students. These events have not only introduced our students to a wide range of career opportunities within the public safety sector but have also sparked a deeper interest and enthusiasm for these fields. The response from our middle school students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing excitement about the potential paths in law enforcement and public safety. We are very grateful for the Denver Police Museum volunteers and all of the DPD employees that have made a positive impact on our students."

— Sondra Osif, Program Manager,
Early Career Exploration, Denver Public Schools,
Office of Career and College Success

Gun Safety Partnership With Clay Connections Foundation

In 2024, the Museum was pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the 501(c)(3) Clay Connections Foundation. Founded to break biases through outdoor recreation, the Clay

Connections Foundation brings young people from urban environments together with law enforcement to learn how to shoot shotguns, safely store firearms, and break clay targets

in a safe environment. With a goal to build trust and respect for all participants, the Clay Connections Foundation is providing critical education to young people while offering non-threatening and fun outdoor activities that help strengthen relationships between local police and youth.

The founder of the Clay Connections Foundation, Michael Mills, has played an important role in our community in the area of public safety for many decades, including as the long-serving Board President of Metro Denver Crime Stoppers. The Museum is looking forward to continuing to grow this program in the coming years.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Cash Assets	\$435,604
Total Donations	\$158,703
Grants	\$19,888
Expenses	\$115,325
Program expenses	\$98,546
Other Expenses	\$16,779

THOSE WE LOST IN 2024

The Denver Police Museum and the Denver Police Retiree Association (DPRA) partner on a special program to honor our deceased retired Denver police officers. This program involves a special presentation of a Denver flag and often their loved ones ID pictures from when they joined the Department.

The purpose of this program is to reinforce with Denver Police Department families our great appreciation for their service to the citizens of the City and County of Denver. If requested, the Museum will bring one of our historic vehicles to attend the service. In 2024, according to the DPRA, we lost the following members of the Denver Police Family. More information is available on the DPRA website at:

dpra.info/fallen-2024.html

Frank Amitrano 72041

Lawrence Archuleta 73020

Beth Basefsky 80025

Darrel Behrendsen 55010

Leo Bellio 57041

William Bierbach 69027

Larry Blumer 71073

Bruce Chesy 67058

Dale Coski 82023

James Crowe 70053

Marie Dill (spouse)

Patrick Fitzgibbons 70090

Anna "Chris" Gallegos 76021

Beckie Gibson (spouse)

Mike Goodfellow 13069

David Joe Gross 57027

Lance Halverson 68091

Bert Heimann 80007

Claire Hesse (spouse)

Paul Kaiser 60033

Charles Kaptain 69071

Hayden Kenny

Jean Lombard (spouse)

Richard Lundquist 55028

Rita Lunquist (spouse)

Miguel Martinez 62029

Terry Masterson 94019

David Metzler 69025

William Myers 60026

Charles Nidey 61048

Lawrence Pennel 57028

Ray Ruybal 79007

Tammy Santomassimo (spouse)

Gerald Schaffer 59015

Irene Nettles Steely (spouse)

Buckley Stewart 69050

Rufino Trujillo 82088

Robert Turner 68131

Alvin Walker 65022

Betty Wells (spouse)

Joseph White 73003

Mark Woodward 75066

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Our Future Museum

Lance Nading, the eldest son of fallen Denver Police Officer Merle Nading, has acquired land across from the National Western Stock Show at 4700 Brighton Blvd. to build a permanent home for the Denver Police Museum. We understand that Mayor Johnston will go back to the voters with a proposal to build a new 10,000-person state-of-the-art arena as part of the National Western Center’s Master Plan that was approved in 2015. The arena will be the economic driver behind the National Western Center campus, and will allow the Museum and our development partner to attract additional investors necessary for the capital project.

United Airlines Flight 629 Memorial

November 1, 2025 will mark the 70th anniversary of the deadly explosion of United Airlines Flight 629. A dynamite bomb had been placed in the plane’s checked luggage compartment, and the aircraft was blown up over Weld County, Colorado, eight miles east of Longmont, Colorado, at 7:03 p.m. local time. Tragically, all 39 passengers and 5 crew members on board were killed in the explosion and crash.

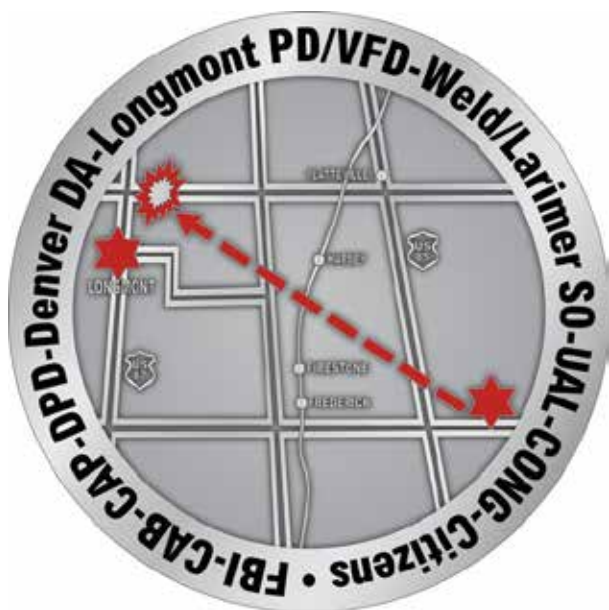
Investigators determined that John Gilbert Graham was responsible for bombing the airplane in a bid to kill his mother as revenge for his childhood and to obtain a large

The Museum is working to develop a business model that will not require money from the City of Denver. With our prime location within the heart of the expanded National Western Center’s campus, we are exploring a mix of revenue sources such as residential, retail, restaurant, and event space that would be built above the Museum and will provide sustainable income for the Museum. We are eternally grateful to the Nading family for their sacrifice and for their continued commitment to the Museum and the citizens of Denver.

life insurance payout. Within fifteen months of the explosion, Graham—who already had an extensive criminal record—was tried, convicted, and executed for the crime.

The Museum is partnering with History Colorado, The Cell, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), FlyteCo Tower, and the Weld County Memorial Committee to plan a series of events including an unveiling of a memorial dedicated to the victims of Flight 629 at the old Stapleton Tower. For more information and to donate to the memorial, please visit:

denverpolicemuseum.org/events-and-programs/flight-629



LOOKING AHEAD (CONT.)

100th Anniversary of the Sacrifice of Fallen Denver Police Officer James Shannon

April 4, 2025 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the line of duty death of Denver Police Officer James Shannon. Thanks to the hard work of Denver Police Museum volunteer Jeff Burke, we have successfully connected with the family of Officer

Shannon and his wife Minnie Lassasso-Shannon. We hope you will join his family and the Museum for this moving tribute to his life and service. For more information, visit:

denverpolicemuseum.org

National Police Week 2025

The Museum, along with the Denver Police Department, have filed the necessary paperwork to add retired Denver Police Officer Dale Coski 82023 to the National, State, and Denver Memorials. In 1983, Officer Coski suffered serious injuries in the tunnels at the Stapleton Airport. Officer Coski passed away in September of 2024, and reports indicated that her life was

cut short due to her injuries. In addition, we will be joining the Denver Crime Lab to honor the late retired Captain Joseph Moomaw for his leadership that ultimately resulted in the creation of the Denver Crime Lab. We will also be honoring the Powers Family as part of the Museum's Legacy Project to recognize their many years of service to our community.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

The Museum would like to thank the leadership of the Denver Police Retiree Association. Your ongoing partnership is greatly appreciated and enables the Museum to continue to fulfill our mission. Our many thanks for your support!

Special thanks to our partners at History Colorado, Center for Colorado Women's History, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

We would like to extend a very special thank you to each and every member, donor, and supporter, including the numerous organizations and foundations who make our programs possible. We are so grateful for your continued support.

To our Denver Police Museum Volunteers: Your commitment, hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. You have participated in programming and sign ceremonies, served as a researcher, emceed events, fundraised, given tours, assisted in the office, traveled to other museums to study their programming and their successes, provided solace to grieving families, and given generously of your time and talents. Once again, you gave more than 5,000 hours of your time to the Denver Police Museum.

Thank you so very much!



JOIN THE DENVER POLICE MUSEUM!

Become a member of the Denver Police Museum and join a community of law enforcement supporters who believe in preserving the legacy of those who Protect and Serve, creating opportunities for community understanding and engagement, and inspiring the next generation of law enforcement professionals.



As a proud member of the Denver Police Museum, you'll receive a limited-edition 2025 challenge coin honoring the service of our Denver Police Officers during the particularly violent time of the 1920s. The 2025 challenge coin acknowledges the sacrifice of the thirteen Denver Police Officers who lost their lives during the decade. The other side of the coin celebrates the Denver Police Department serving as the host of the International Police Chiefs Conference in October of 2025—the third time Denver has played host to the conference including in 1975 and 2009.

As we look forward to the hope and promise of 2025, we hope you will consider continuing or becoming a member of the Denver Police Museum. Your tax-deductible gift ensures our continued success and your support allows future generations to better appreciate the real stories of our law enforcement heroes, their struggles, their daily lives, and their sacrifices.

We invite you to join us in our mission to help create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond!

YES! I want to renew my membership or become a member of the Denver Police Museum

Join online at denverpolicemuseum.org/get-involved/become-a-member or complete the form below and use the enclosed envelope to mail your check to **Denver Police Museum c/o Michael Hesse, 4460 Dover Street, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

GOLD MEMBERSHIP \$100

Benefits include the following:

- A collectible Denver Police Museum Challenge Coin
- Bi-annual printed Museum newsletter
- Membership card
- Special invitations to events and programs throughout the year

SILVER MEMBERSHIP \$50

Benefits include the following:

- A collectible Denver Police Museum Challenge Coin
- Membership card
- Special invitations to events and programs throughout the year

Make checks payable to **Denver Police Museum**



THANK YOU!

Your contribution directly supports the Museum's educational programs, community outreach exhibits, and the ongoing preservation of our historical collections.

Through interactive, culturally responsive, and socially relevant programming, the Denver Police Museum is redefining educational and community impact experiences utilizing a blend of history, civics, public safety, and STEM to shape the future of Denver and beyond. The Museum is dedicated to actively creating community conversations where citizens can hear, see, feel, participate, understand, and appreciate the value of police in our lives. Some of the momentous events and activities planned for 2025 include:

- November 1, 2025 will mark the 70th anniversary of the deadly explosion of United Airlines Flight 629. A dynamite bomb had been placed in the plane's checked luggage compartment, and the aircraft was blown up over Weld County, Colorado, eight miles east of Longmont, Colorado, at 7:03 p.m. local time. Tragically, all 39 passengers and 5 crew members on board were killed in the explosion and crash. The Museum is partnering with History Colorado, The Cell, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), FlyteCo Tower, and the Weld County Memorial Committee to plan a series of events including an unveiling of a memorial dedicated to the victims of Flight 629 at the old Stapleton Tower.
- The Museum will place Fallen Officer Memorial Signs at the locations where the officer lost their life. Of the 77 officers who have died in the line of duty we have placed over 40 signs. In 2025, we will honor Officer James Shannon who was killed on April 4, 1925. We will place a memorial sign in his honor exactly 100 years to the date of his sacrifice April 4, 2025.
- National Police Week: The Museum will continue our tradition of lighting the Denver City and County Building blue for Police Week.
- The Museum's award-winning youth programs will continue to provide unique and immersive educational experiences with real law enforcement officers in an approachable and fun setting to provide positive outreach to Denver's youth.
- Ongoing preservation and archiving of historical Denver Police artifacts.
- Enduring Legacy Program with special recognition to the Powers and Moomaw Families for their service to the citizens of the City and County of Denver.

We want to again thank the many volunteers that allow the Museum to continue to offer these important programs and we look forward to welcoming you at one or more of our programs in 2025. Be on the lookout for additional details for upcoming events and opportunities via our monthly enews.

On behalf of the Denver Police Museum board of directors and our dedicated volunteers, we thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,



Michael Hesse
President