



# WELCOME!

*Thanks for being here. Big things are happening with the Denver Police Museum, and we couldn't be happier to share them with you!*

The Denver Police Museum is helping to create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond. Since its founding in 2008, DPM has focused on building bridges between law enforcement and our communities. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, DPM is dedicated to providing opportunities for people to hear, see, feel, participate, understand, and appreciate the value of police in our lives and communities. We couldn't do it without you.

## FEATURED STORY

### **Passing of Denver Police Officer Mark Lawrence**

The Denver Police family was saddened to learn that their brother, Denver Police Officer Mark

Lawrence 24031 passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Mark, who was formerly of East Northport New York, came to Denver to join the department. He is survived by his mother Carmen, brother Kimberly and late Matthew.



He was the loving grandson to Noemi and soul mate of Keishmy. On behalf of the Denver Police Museum we wish to express sympathy to his family and acknowledge his support for the museum. We also want to acknowledge the Blue Hat Foundation, the Denver Police Foundation, the Denver Police Protective Association, the Fraternal Order of Police who all provided support to the family. We also want to thank Denver Police Officer Danny Veith for his tireless effort to coordinate all the efforts of the department with Mark's family.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **United Flight 629 Memorial**

In late 2025, the Museum will host a ceremony to remember the victims of the tragic United Airlines Flight 629 disaster, the first act of aircraft sabotage in the US. This event will be dedicated to the families and loved ones of those who perished when the Douglas DC-6B, registration N37559, was destroyed by a dynamite bomb on November 1, 1955.

The Museum is committed to preserving the memory of this horrific event and providing support to the families of the victims. By remembering the events of United Airlines Flight 629, we honor the 44 lives lost and reaffirm our

commitment to aviation safety and the role of law enforcement in investigations. This tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the importance of vigilance and security in the aviation industry.

We are proud to partner with [History Colorado](#) on a special exhibit to honor the victims of the tragedy. Please take the opportunity to visit History Colorado for the official opening of the exhibit, The Bombing of United 629, on March 21, 2025.

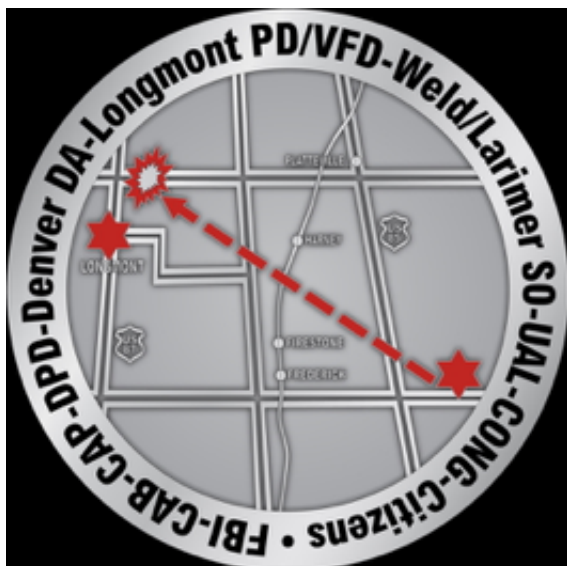
The special exhibit tells the story of what happened 70 years ago as the plane left Denver's Stapleton Airport enroute to Portland and explores the enduring legacy of this tragic event while serving as a tribute to all who were lost. Personal items belonging to the victims will be on view in the exhibit.

The Bombing of United 629 will run through February 8, 2026. For more information, please visit: <http://www.historycolorado.org/exhibit/united-629>



We are raising the money through donations with those giving \$30 or more receiving the limited edition Flight 629 Memorial Challenge Coin as our gift to you. All the funds raised will go toward the memorial. Would you help us correct this oversight and help us honor the victims of this tragedy with your donation?





[Learn More about the Memorial](#)



presents

# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS!

featuring  
George Gray  
and the  
Elvis Experience Band

A fundraiser supporting the  
Flight 629 Memorial  
Special guest performance by  
MHS students

general  
admission  
\$25

VIP/front 3 rows  
\$35

VIP seating &  
meet & greet  
\$45

Find on Tickets

[www.purplepass.com](http://www.purplepass.com)  
Search 629



7PM  
**10**  
MAY

**MEAD HIGH  
SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM**  
12750 COUNTY RD 7  
LONGMONT, CO 80504

## Denver Police Memorial Ceremony

You're invited to the Memorial Ceremony at Denver Police Headquarters  
Courtyard on May 15th, 2025 at 10:00 AM.



## POLICE WEEK 2025

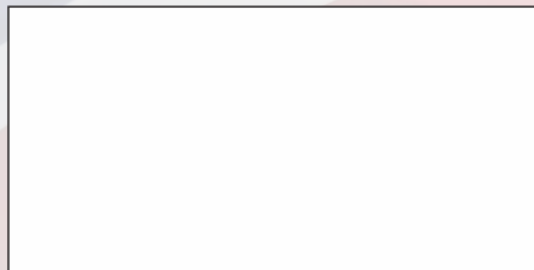
### RESPECT • HONOR • REMEMBER

P.O. Box 9140  
Denver, CO 80209



**You're Invited!**  
**Denver Police Memorial Ceremony**  
Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10 am  
Courtyard of Denver Police Headquarters  
1331 Cherokee Street

**FREE Parking**  
South of Police headquarters at 1235 Cherokee Street



**Complimentary Luncheon immediately following  
in the Crime Lab Auditorium at 11:30 am**

**Honoring the Multigenerational Service of the Powers Family  
Honoring Captain Joe Moomaw, 40-2  
The First Director of Denver Crime Lab**



**Captain Joe Moomaw**

## Officer Dale Coski to be included on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

Officer Coski's name will be formally dedicated on May 13, 2025 at the 37th

Annual Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week. Visit the website at [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org) for more information.



**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL**

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

February 7, 2025

**Honorary Chairman**  
Clint Eastwood

**Officers**  
Lori Sharpe Day  
Chair  
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Vice Chair  
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Fraternal Order of Police  
Auxiliary  
International Association of  
Chiefs of Police  
International Brotherhood of  
Police Officers  
Motorola Solutions  
Movement Forward  
National Association of Police  
Organizations  
National Black Police  
Association  
National Organization of Black  
Law Enforcement Executives  
National Sheriffs' Association  
National Troopers Coalition  
National Police Foundation  
Police Executive Research  
Forum  
Police Unity Tour  
ReLEntless Defender Apparel  
United Federation of Police Officers  
Verizon

The Honorable Ron Thomas  
Chief  
Denver, Colorado, P.D.  
1331 Cherokee St Rm 514  
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Chief Thomas:

It is our honor to inform you that the name of **Police Officer DALE COSKI (End of Watch: 9/26/2024) of the Denver, Colorado, P.D.** has been approved for inclusion to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. The name will be formally dedicated on **May 13, 2025 at the 37th Annual Candlelight Vigil** during National Police Week.

An invitation and additional information will be sent to you via email regarding this event. Please send your email address to [research@nleomf.org](mailto:research@nleomf.org) to ensure that you receive this information. If contact information was provided for the officer's family, a similar letter has been sent to them.

Visit our website at [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org) for more information about the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Research Managers, Carolie Heyliger at (202)737-7136 or Vanessa Varnado at (202) 737-7981.

Sincerely,

William Alexander  
Chief Executive Officer





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## **Police Unity Tour-Challenge Ride Fundraiser**

Denver Police Officer Michael Renkosiak is joining the Police Unity Tour-Challenge Ride. Consisting of nearly 450 officers representing police agencies throughout the United States, the primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty. The secondary purpose is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum.

Officer Renkosiak will be riding in memory of fallen Denver Police Officers Celina Hollis and Dale Coski. The ride concludes at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC.

Officer Renkosiak and his fellow academy classmates had a special display painted on the ceiling of the academy that individually honors all of our 77 fallen officers and has taken a very active interest in making sure they are remembered. Please help him continue this important task by [donating to his fundraising page](#).



Photos of previous rides can be viewed here:  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3ehRP1VfTx7VKzVK9> and  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BvW2U5Zjj2GwXVnu9>

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# LAST MONTH WITH DPM

## Women's History Month 2025





# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



**Proclamation No. 25-0398**

**A Proclamation Honoring The Life And Service Of Susan G. (Knight) Berdine**

**WHEREAS**, Susan Knight Berdine was born on July 2, 1979, in College Station, Pennsylvania, to Mary and Paul Knight. Susan was a good student attending local elementary and high school for her formative education. The family decided to visit Washington DC on a vacation, and during that trip her she took a tour of the FBI Crime Lab. This tour sparked Susan's interest in forensic science and sent her on a path of her lifelong calling; and

**WHEREAS**, Susan attended Pennsylvania State University, receiving a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, and later receiving a Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Susan led the Forensic Biology/DNA unit at the Denver Crime Laboratory as a forensic scientist, DNA technical leader and deputy director. Her technical abilities and passion for solving cases propelled her national and international recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not a single aspect of the Forensic Biology /DNA Unit's current methods that Susan has not influenced, either directly or indirectly through the staff she trained and the procedures she implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, while Susan's strengths were innumerable, her greatest professional achievements came from the grants she was awarded, the technical validations she completed, and her courtroom poise under extensive cross-examination; and

**WHEREAS**, her foresight and focus on data-driven decision making, led the Forensic Biology DNA Unit through complex technical issues and kept the unit on the cutting edge in an always evolving field of Forensic DNA Analysis and her leadership resulted in Denver receiving cold case grant funds that have ultimately led to the successful closing of unsolved cases and providing justice for hundreds of victims of crime in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time of her retirement in 2021, after seventeen years of service to the victims of crime in Denver, Susan made the difficult but decision to shift her focus away from the work she loved to spend more time with her family. Her husband Mathew and three children Andrew, Ryder and Abigail became her primary focus; and

**WHEREAS**, sadly Susan passed away in the summer of 2022 after a resilient five-year battle with cancer. Her legacy of excellence will always be a part of the Denver Crime Laboratory. Susan the colleague, friend, mentor, scientist, mother, daughter, wife and sister will never be forgotten.

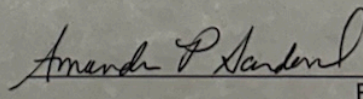
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council recognize Susan Knight Berdine for her dedication to service and contributions as a pioneer of modern Forensics.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Michael Hesse.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 24, 2025



  
PRESIDENT



Susan's father and family, former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey and Crime Lab Staff at Susan's recognition event.



## Fallen Officer James Shannon 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Officer James Shannon was honored on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his sacrifice on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with a Memorial Sign ceremony.





Colorado Emerald Society Recognizing Fallen Officer Shannon





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## **Denver Police Museum Youth Activities**

The Museum is proud to serve Denver area schools through immersive educational activities that incorporate fun and interactive learning for middle school and high school youth to deliver age-appropriate STEM, civics, and career exploration activities.

The Museum's desired outcomes for our youth programs are to spark a curiosity in STEM and public service, create pathways for career exploration,

and build trust between youth and law enforcement.

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## **911 Communications Center Tour**

Starting the day of March 3rd in Denver's 9-1-1 Communications Center, 26 students from Merrill and Hamilton MS learned when to call and the most important information needed when placing a call. Students also heard recordings of some real calls.

Many professionals from the center spoke with students about their career journeys including police, fire and EMS dispatchers, call takers and other careers in the center. Students met Kurt with EEB (Electronic Engineering Bureau), toured the Mac Truck, and used police walkie talkies for fun. Students also interacted with Officer Cabrera from District 5 and inspected the District 5 Jeep cruiser

The tour concluded with a tour of the entire center and observing real dispatchers and call takers on the dispatch floor. Three DPM volunteers assisted the professionals during the day and served the students lunch.





## Students Receive Training on Dangers of Fentanyl

On March 11th and 24th, 20 students from Eaglecrest HS on each day started the day with the DPD Fentanyl team including Detectives Maciel, Campbell and Spence learning about the dangers of Fentanyl, which is the leading cause of overdose deaths in the US. Learning about the dangers of fentanyl saves lives.

Retired DPD Officer Barbara Cisneros, one of four DPM volunteers for both

days, led a tour of the museum and the museum's historic cars.

A group of 30 students from Prairie View HS attended The Dangers of Fentanyl presentation with Detective Yates. Deputy Director Mountain then led a lab tour focusing on the multitude of lab's forensic procedures and learning about career opportunities. Four DPM volunteers assisted with a tour of the Denver Police Museum and historic police cars.

Thirty Cherry Creek High School Innovative Campus students attended the Dangers of Fentanyl presentation on March 31st by Det. Campbell, then toured the museum, the Real Time Crime Center and the museum's historic police cars.

Four DMP volunteers provided able-bodied assistance.





## Colorado Fallen Officers Tribute at Avalanche Game





## Denver Detective's Killer Seeks Parole

The Colorado Flyover reports that the family of Donald "Donnie" Young, a Denver detective killed in 2005, is speaking out after their father's killer applied for a program that could grant him early parole.

Raul Gomez-Garcia, an MS-13 gang member, was sentenced to 80 years in prison for Young's murder.

Because he was under 21 at the time of the crime, he now qualifies for a state program that could allow him to seek parole after three years of participation.

Young's daughters, joined by the former Denver District Attorney, have urged lawmakers to reject his application and amend the law to exclude violent offenders.

Unless the law is revised, Gomez-Garcia could reapply for parole every three years if denied.

[https://denvergazette.com/news/courts/gomez-garcia-early-release-denial/article\\_9fb698ee-4fcf-4753-b63c-703989e98ac5.html](https://denvergazette.com/news/courts/gomez-garcia-early-release-denial/article_9fb698ee-4fcf-4753-b63c-703989e98ac5.html)

<https://www.denver7.com/news/front-range/denver/man-convicted-of-killing-denver-police-officer-in-2005-applies-for-program-that-could-lead-to-early-release>

<https://www.9news.com/video/news/crime/law-enforcement-family-ask-judge-not-to-reduce-sentence-of-man-who-murdered-denver-detective/73-ea64b3a5-0ea0-43cb-8dd0-8d42688da61a>



The Denver Police Museum joined Shield 616 at the Tri State Auto Exhibit held at the Denver Stock Show March 8 and 9. The museum's 1964 Ford Galaxie and the 1978 Nova served as a backdrop for the Shield 616 booth.

Shield 616 raises funds to provide protective armor to first responders. One of the highlights of the show included Shield 616 presenting protective gear to officers from several different agencies.





## Alpha Phi Sigma Visits the Denver Police Museum

The Denver Police Museum was pleased to host students from throughout the United States and Canada who were visiting our community as part of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society Annual Convention. The organization was established in 1942 and operates at a number of colleges and universities. Over 200 participants visited the archiving center, the memorial and the crime lab as part of their tour. A special shout out to both Dr. Gregg LaBerge and former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey for their presentation on DNA and their thoughtful advice to young people choosing a career in criminal justice.





## District 2 Community Outreach

DPD District 2 Touch a truck community outreach event for Swansea neighborhood on April 2nd.



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**Thank you so much for helping us make these events possible  
and for your participation!**

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## **Introducing the 2025 Museum Challenge Coin**

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 your membership 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 struggle, along with their daily lives and sacrifice. We invite you to join us in our mission help to create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond!

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

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**Become a Member Today!**

