



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

Fallen Officer James Shannon, Denver Police Department

By Keith Dameron, Historian – Colorado Law Enforcement Memorial

Patrolman James Shannon, 26, was shot and killed at 11:15 p.m. on

Saturday, April 4, 1925, in front of a house at 3357 Williams St. Two witnesses heard the shot, saw a person run away, saw Shannon lying on the sidewalk and called the police. He had been shot once in the left side with the bullet traveling into his heart. He died almost instantly. He had last checked in from the call box at 34th and Franklin at 11:01 p.m. then resumed walking his beat along 34th Avenue.



Investigators had little to go on, but did connect the shooting to a report that someone had attempted to hold up a streetcar nearby a few minutes before the murder. Thirty minutes later three men came to the central police station downtown to report their Ford coupe had been stolen at gunpoint at 33rd and Race. They said a young man had accosted them, jumped in the car and made them drive eastbound. He told them he had just shot a cop and had to get away. At Madison Street he ordered them out, got behind the wheel and continued eastbound. After reporting the theft the three men left the police station at about 12:20 a.m., and remarkably, saw the suspect walking ahead of them on Larimer Street. They called out to Patrolman Roy Campbell who, with Patrolman Baer, arrested the suspect without further incident.

He was identified as Albert Dorchak, 18, who lived at 3754 Delgany St. Chief Candish questioned him and got a full confession. He blamed moonshine liquor for his actions. He was on parole for burglary, larceny and receiving stolen goods from a case in January. He had spent three days at the state reformatory in Buena Vista before he was released on two years of probation.

Shannon apparently saw that Dorchak was staggering on Williams Street. He searched him and removed a gun from his pocket. However, Dorchak was carrying two guns. He pulled the second gun and ordered Shannon to give up both his and Dorchak's gun. Shannon did so but immediately grabbed Dorchak's wrist and was shot in the side, leaving powder burns on the officer's clothing. Dorchak then ran south before accosting the three men and stealing

their car at 33rd and Race. He stated that he drove out in the country for some time before going back downtown and abandoning the car at 15th and Larimer shortly before he was arrested. Three guns were found in the stolen Ford coupe, one of which was Shannon's.

James E. Shannon was born in Colorado on January 17, 1899, the fifth of seven children born to Thomas and Anna Lyons Shannon who were born in Ireland. He grew up in north Denver and joined the Denver Police Department in March 1920. He married Philomena (Minnie) F. Losasso on May 10, 1924, in Denver and they lived at 1533 W. 34th Ave. His wife had a premonition that evening and begged him not to go to work. They were just five weeks away from celebrating their first wedding anniversary.

He was survived by his wife, parents, several siblings and many friends. Recitation of the rosary was held the evening of April 7 at the home of his parents at 1729 W. 38th Ave. Requiem mass was held the next morning at St. Patrick's church at 33rd and Pecos, with burial following at Mount Olivet cemetery. Police pallbearers were Sergeant D. J. Sullivan and Patrolmen George Nagor, Fred Pizzichino, Charles Quinlan, John O'Donnell and A. Pyles.

Dorchak was charged with Officer Shannon's murder and entered a not-guilty plea. The trial began on April 27 and he was convicted two days later. It took the jury 21 ballots to finally recommend a life sentence and not the death penalty. His appeal was denied and he arrived at the state penitentiary on May 17, 1925 as prisoner 12955. He was paroled July 23, 1937 but his parole was revoked by Governor Teller Ammons on October 11, 1938 and he was returned to prison on October 18, 1938. He was paroled again on March 11, 1952 and died in Denver on January 19, 1966 at age 59.

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.

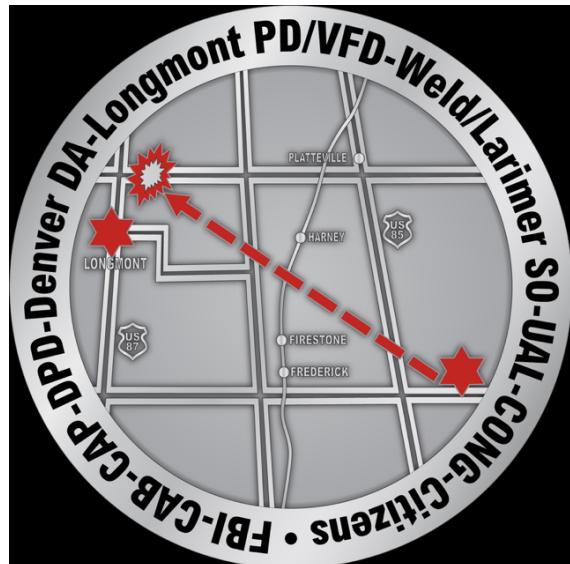
The Museum is committed to preserving the memory of this horrific event and providing support to the families of the victims. By remembering the events of United Airlines Flight 629, we honor the 44 lives lost and reaffirm our commitment to aviation safety and the role of law enforcement in investigations.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



**FLIGHT 629
MEMORIAL**
FLIGHT629MEMORIAL.ORG

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
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.



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 for more information.



February 7, 2025

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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 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 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 Vanissa Varnado at (202) 737-7981.

Sincerely,

William Alexander
Chief Executive Officer



Dale Coski and Canine Partner



Two employees from Erikson Monuments add former Denver Police Officer Dale Coski's name to the memorial plaque at DPD HQ courtyard.

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>

LAST MONTH WITH DPM

The Denver Police Museum welcomes Denver Police Academy Class 25-1.



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.

Middle and High School Student Museum Tours

On April 1st, twenty-two students with DC-21 and Kepner Middle Schools started the day with retired Deputy Chief Bill Nagle in the classroom to learn how the police use GPS technology. Retired Sgt. Chris Hoag then led three groups on a tour of the Museum and bomb squad. Students learned about the bomb squad's new robot dog and the bomb suite.

The Museum tour included our collection of historic patrol cars and a current-day police car courtesy of District Community Resource Officers Glenn Main and Kayla Knabe.

Museum volunteers Sherry Dawkins, Diane Degenhart, Mary Anne Anaya, and

April Overman facilitated the effort to connect kids with officers to increase goodwill and understanding and to show a variety of sworn and civilian career opportunities within the police department.

On April 16th, twenty-four Warren Tech HS students began their field trip in the classroom with Det. Paul Campbell's presentation on the dangers of Fentanyl. After a Museum tour hosted by retired DPD Officer Barbara Cisneros, the students were given a tour of the Museum's historic police cars. Museum volunteers Sherry Dawkins, Mary Anne Anaya, and April Overman were instrumental in the planning, organizing, and management of the school visit.



Thank you so much for helping us make these events possible

and for your participation!

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.

Become a Member Today!



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