



# 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.

## United Airlines Flight 629 Update

Special thanks to Jeffrey Burke, Diane Degenhart and Linda Remley for their hard work to help plan the memorial activities associated with the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of United Airlines Flight 629. Burke has successfully built family trees for all of the victims' families. We have been working on the arduous process of contacting the surviving victims' families. Burke also built family trees for key players in the tragedy including William Patterson, the President of United Airlines at the time of tragedy, and Roy Moore and Donald Sebesta, the lead FBI agents who successfully got the perpetrator to confess. Those families have been invited to join us for

anniversary activities. We are planning a series of events on October 31-November 1.

In addition to the Denver Police Museum, sponsors for the memorial activities include: History Colorado (which currently has a public display recognizing the victims and is open through January 2026). The Cell (Museum that focuses on terrorism), Wings over the Rockies (aviation museum), and The Weld County Memorial Group are all expected to attend the events.

In early June, the family of late FBI agent Don Sebesta joined us at the FBI's Regional Headquarters to see two special case files that were donated several years ago by the Sebesta family to the local office. Agent Sebesta had put together news clips on both major cases he was involved in, including United Flight 629 and the Coors kidnapping. We are in the process of digitizing both case files for historic preservation.

In mid-June, the Regional FBI Office in Denver hosted Mike Hesse, Susan Smith, with the Christian Anschutz Foundation, and Diane Degenhart for a presentation to approximately 125 FBI employees about the bombing of United Flight 629. We greatly appreciated the opportunity and wish to thank Special Agent In-Charge Denver, Mark Michalek, the FBI Public Affairs Director, Vikki Migoya, and retired agent Dana McMahon for their assistance. The retired FBI agents received a presentation in February and have purchased a number of our memorial United Airlines Flight 629 challenge coins.



## UA 629 Challenge Coin

### United Flight 629 Events:

#### The Untold Story of UA Flight 629 Bombing

WHEN: FRIDAY OCT 31, 8PM MT, SATURDAY, NOV. 1, 2025, 11AM AND 7 PM MT

LOCATION: Church in the City, Old Stapleton Tower (now the FlyteCo brewery)

and restaurant) Wings Over the Rockies.

On Tuesday, November 1, 1955, United Airlines Flight 629 departed Denver's Stapleton Airfield en route to Portland, Oregon, with 39 passengers and five crew members. Eleven minutes after departing, the flight exploded eight miles east of Longmont, killing everyone aboard.

The bombing was the first confirmed case of sabotage against a commercial aircraft in the U.S. The subsequent investigation set new standards for forensic science in airline crash investigations and ultimately found that John Gilbert Graham of Lakewood, Colorado, placed dynamite in his mother's suitcase to collect insurance money from her death.

The tragedy led to a landmark decision by the Colorado Supreme Court, which allowed the trial to be televised and paved the way for greater media access to courtrooms. It also dramatically changed security arrangements for air travelers. And, of course, the tragedy shocked the American people due to its cold-blooded nature.

On Friday Evening Church in the City will host a memorial Service honoring victims and first responders.

Special activities include a memorial for the victims at the old Stapleton Tower on Saturday, November 1 at 11 am, which is open to the public. History Colorado is hosting a special display through January 2026. And Denver Police Museum volunteers have located victims' surviving families who are expected to attend the events.

To mark the tragedy's 70th anniversary, the Denver Police Department is honored to co-host a symposium in partnership with the University of Denver's Enrichment Program on November 1 at 7 pm at Wings Over the Rockies (7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver, CO, 80230) that explores the enduring legacy of this horrific event while serving as a tribute to those lost.

Special presentations are planned by guest speakers and former Denver

District Attorney Mitch Morrissey, who shares the event's background and trial. Additionally, Marian Poeppelmeyer, daughter of Flight 629 victim Marion Hobgood and author of the book *Finding My Father*, considers the ripple of tragedy and trauma and the importance of forgiveness.

Mitch Morrissey was elected district attorney of Denver in 2004 and was sworn into office in 2005. He is recognized internationally for his expertise in DNA technology, applying that technology in criminal prosecutions and working to ensure that DNA science is admissible in court. A veteran prosecutor, he introduced the first DNA evidence used in a criminal trial in Denver.

Are you interested in attending this event? Please RSVP Here:

[UA Flight 629 Untold Story RSVP](#)

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## **Check out Mike Hesse's KOA Radio Interview**

(click on the image below)



Photo: RAUL RODRIGUEZ / iStock / Getty Images

**United Airlines Flight 629: A Deadly Aviation Disaster**

07 07 25 Denver Police Museum's Michael Hesse on 1955 United Flight 629 Memorial

00:00 07:36

Spreaker★

KOA  
NEWS TALK SPORTS  
850AM • 94.1FM

## Youth Programs Impact Report

The museum's mission is to help create safer, stronger, and more vibrant communities in Denver and beyond. A focus area of our programs is to build community bridges, particularly with youth.

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Denver Police Museum Treasurer and Museum Youth Coordinator April Overman, the museum continues to have

great success with our many youth programs. We've received encouraging feedback from students and enthusiastic testimonials from partners on the positive impact of our youth programs. Specifics will be shared in the August newsletter.

A big thank you to April and the many volunteers who have driven our success over the years and continue to help the museum make a significant impact on the lives of Denver youth.

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## **Artifact Update**

### **Sadie Likens Badge**

This June, the Denver Police Museum successfully acquired the original badge of Denver's First Police Woman Sadie Likens. This is a significant addition to the outstanding badge collection the museum currently holds in the museum archives. Thank you to retired Denver Police Sgt Dean Christopherson for this careful research and efforts to capture this important part of DPD History!



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## Youth Events

The Museum is proud to serve Denver area schools through immersive educational programs that incorporate fun and interactive learning for middle school and high school youth. These programs deliver age-appropriate content, create pathways for career exploration in law enforcement, STEM, and public service, and help to build trust between youth and law enforcement.

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## Upcoming Traffic Safety Program for DPD Families

Exclusively for DPD Families, students learn what to do, and not do on a traffic stop, and what to do if you're in an accident. Students also experience mock traffic stops.

Lunch is included for this event on Wednesday, July 23rd from 10:00 am till

2:00 pm, and takes place at DPD D3, 1625 S. University Blvd.

RSVP April Overman, 303-319-6086 or [aoverman@denverpolicemuseum.org](mailto:aoverman@denverpolicemuseum.org).  
Include names, number of participants and a phone number.

Hosted by The Denver Police Museum and DPD District 3 Officers.

PREPARE FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

# TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

EXCLUSIVELY FOR DPD FAMILIES

HOSTED BY THE DENVER POLICE MUSEUM  
AND DPD DISTRICT 3 OFFICERS

**STUDENTS LEARN**

- What to do, and not do on a traffic stop
- What to do if you're in an accident
- Mock traffic stops



**Wednesday, July 23 10am - 2 pm**  
**Lunch Included!**

1625 S UniversityBLVD

**RSVP BY JULY 16TH**

**April Overman**

- 303-319-6086
- [aoverman@denverpolicemuseum.org](mailto:aoverman@denverpolicemuseum.org)
- include names, number of participants  
and phone number



**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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