



# WELCOME!

*Fall is well underway and we have a large number of events planned between now and December. September was a busy month with youth programs, Hispanic Heritage Month and Forensic Science Week and other special activities.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The board would like to thank everyone for their continued support for the Denver Police Museum this past year.

We really appreciate all of the many hours of volunteer service we have received. The museum would be unable to function without this critical component.

We are honored to be involved in the International Police Chief Convention being held this October at the Denver Convention Center. We are taking full advantage of the opportunity to share the Denver Police Department's rich history with convention attendees. We are placing several of our historic vehicles throughout the convention center and will have a number of old uniforms, mannequins, photos and displays during the course of the convention.

We are excited to announce that we have a new board member joining the DPM Team.

Former Denver Police Officer Ralph Barocas, joined the museum board in

September. Ralph will bring a lifetime of service and experience to the museum leadership.

He served as a paratrooper in Vietnam and a Special Forces officer in both Panama and Afghanistan. He served as a Denver Police Officer from 1977 to 1981. He has an extensive background in financial investment management including RBC Wealth Management, AG Edwards and Sons, Prudential Bache Securities, Boettcher and Company, Hanifen, and Imhoff.

He has numerous civic affiliations including: Wishes and Heroes Board Member, Senior Housing Options Board Member, Blue Hat Foundation, Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Foundation Board Member, Boy Scouts of America Unit Commissioner, Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scout Master, and Merit Badge Counselor.

Look for additional museum leadership changes in 2026!

We are also pleased by the outstanding response we have received from officers as we have unveiled our America 250 Colorado 150 commemorative badge. Sales have been brisk and officers will be allowed to wear the special badges throughout 2026. The 2026 museum challenge coin will be a special recognition of America's Anniversary.

We continue to make progress on our efforts to build a permanent home for the museum at 4700 Brighton Blvd. We are very appreciative of the outstanding leadership we have received from Lance Nading, the son of fallen Denver Police Officer Merle Nading. Lance's business acumen and leadership has been essential to achieving our ultimate goal of a physical location across from the Denver Stock Show. We also wish to recognize Leo Branstetter, the previous landowner, who shares our commitment to the development of the historic museum!



Board Member Ralph Barocas

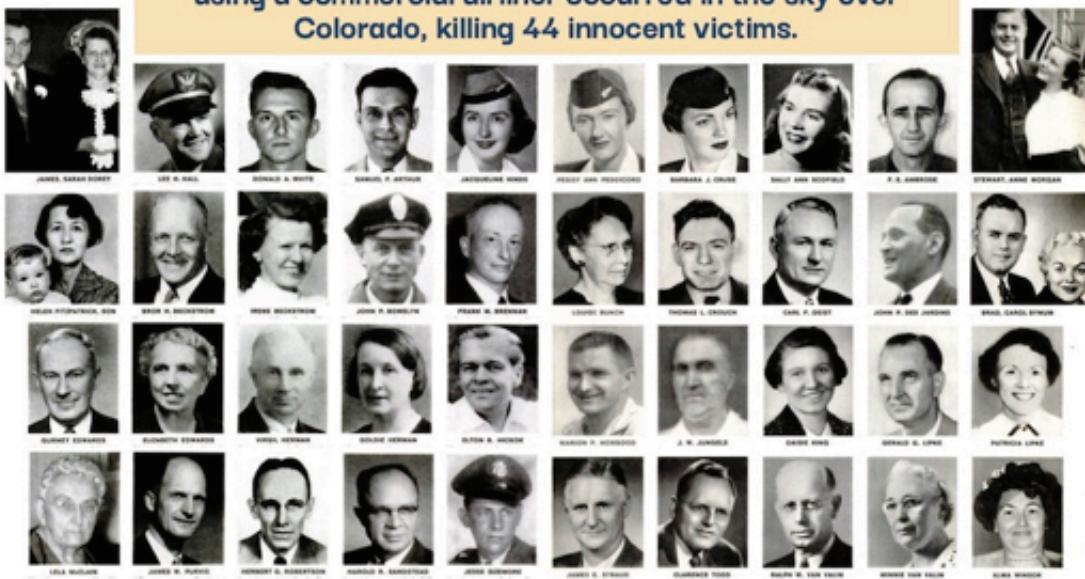


## FLIGHT 629 MEMORIAL DEDICATION NOVEMBER 1, 2025

We will be dedicating a memorial to the 44 victims of United Flight 629 at 11:00am at the old Stapleton Tower on the 70th Anniversary of the tragedy. The memorial also honors the many first responders and agencies who responded that fateful day. Later that same day we will hold a symposium at Wings Over the Rockies sharing the details of the events, trial and impact of that horrible tragedy on our state and travel throughout the United States. Please RSVP so that you can reserve your seat. Thanks to the work of Denver Police Museum Volunteer Jeff Burke we expect over 100 victims' family members to travel to Denver for this important event!

[UA 629 Events](#)

On November 1, 1955, The first act of domestic terrorism using a commercial airliner occurred in the sky over Colorado, killing 44 innocent victims.

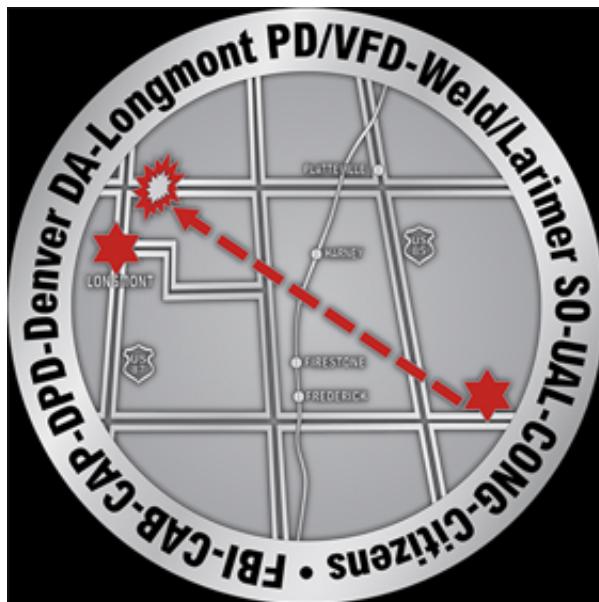


For more information, visit [denverpolicemuseum.org](http://denverpolicemuseum.org)

## UA 629 Challenge Coin

## UA 629 Events

Please check out [www.denverpolicemuseum.org](http://www.denverpolicemuseum.org) to make reservations to attend the various events and to see how you might support our efforts.



We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Memorial Service, Memorial Dedication, and Symposium. If you are interested in helping, please email Mike Hesse at [mhesse@denverpolicemuseum.org](mailto:mhesse@denverpolicemuseum.org)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Donald DeBruno 50th Anniversary**

We are working with the DeBruno family to recognize the 50th anniversary of the sacrifice of fallen Denver Police Detective Donald DeBruno.



**DENVER POLICE  
MUSEUM**



**PLEASE JOIN  
The Denver Police Museum and  
the Denver Police Department**

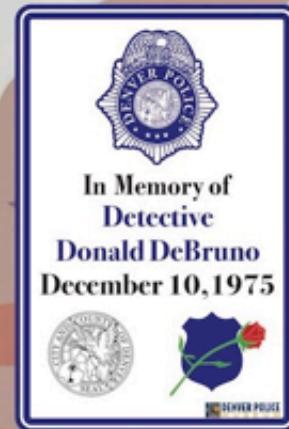
**As we honor the memory of  
Denver Police Detective  
Donald Lee DeBruno  
on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his sacrifice  
serving the Citizens of Denver**



**Detective Donald DeBruno**

**Ceremony:**

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, at 11 am  
17<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, Denver**



**126th Anniversary of  
Fallen Officer James E. Boggio's Sacrifice**

On January 8, 2026 we will be honoring the one hundred and twenty-sixth anniversary of the EOW of Denver Police Patrolman James E. Boggio. We

have successfully found members of his family who will join us for the ceremony! We will be placing a memorial sign at the location where he lost his life and will be doing a special gravesite service at Mt. Olivet Cemetery that morning. Please join us as we acknowledge his service and his tragic death at the age of 25 years.

We always claim that our fallen will not be forgotten. This is an opportunity to make sure we are true to our word.



**DENVER POLICE  
MUSEUM**



**PLEASE JOIN  
The Denver Police Museum and  
the Denver Police Department**

**As we honor the memory of  
Denver Police Officer**

**James E Boggio**

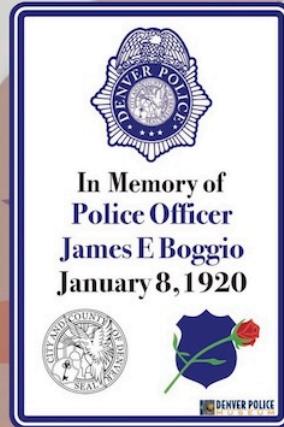
**on the 126<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his sacrifice  
serving the Citizens of Denver**



**Officer James E Boggio**

**Ceremony:**

**Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026, at 11 am  
1834 West 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver**



**2025 International Police Chief Conference Denver**

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Denver Police Department is hosting the

International Police Chief Convention this October 18-21. They are expecting over 18,000 people to attend the conference, including high ranking federal officials. The museum is lucky to have been asked to participate in the convention and we will have a significant amount of artifacts on display. We need assistance in covering our booth during business hours at the convention center from 9am to 5pm daily. Everyone wishing to attend must receive a badge in advance. Please let us know if you are interested.



## LAST MONTH WITH DPM

### Denver7 RECOGNIZES DENVER POLICE MUSEUM VOLUNTEER APRIL OVERMAN

At the end of September, Denver 7 News awarded Denver Police Museum Treasurer and Youth Coordinator April Overman their Everyday Hero Award. April richly deserves this award with her outstanding work volunteering for the Denver Police Museum. Her leadership with the Museum Youth Programs has resulted in the museum receiving numerous awards from the Denver Public School System. Watch in early October for the actual story.

### Lab Appreciation Lunch

On Tuesday, September 16 the Denver Crime Lab and the museum welcomed

Denver Mayor Michael Johnston and Denver City Councilmember Flor Alvidrez, as we celebrated the outstanding work of the staff of the Denver Crime Lab. Councilmember Alvidrez sponsored a proclamation which was adopted September 15. The program highlighted a case solved by the cold case unit with remarks from Director Greggory LaBerge, Deputy District Attorney Dawn Weber and Becky Bornhoft.



## Annual Hispanic Heritage Trailblazer Award

We were very honored to recognize retired DPD Commander Rudy Sandoval in September. It was heartwarming to see a large group of retirees gather to acknowledge his outstanding legacy with the Denver Police Department.

During the ceremony someone mentioned the fact that the NFL talks a lot about its coaches tree. Looking at how many professional NFL coaches worked under a small number of outstanding coaches throughout the history of the league. It was appropriately noted that the same could be said within the leadership of the Denver Police Department. A number of outstanding leaders worked for Commander Sandoval and his legacy burns bright. A special thank you to the National Latino Peace Officers Association and Vice President (formally national President) Severance Colorado Police Chief Ken Chavez for his assistance with the event. We also wish to thank DPD Commander Brad Qualls and Shirley Mestas for their wonderful hospitality during our program. A special shout out to Channel 9 photo journalist Amy Hunter for her outstanding story!

[Link to 9News Hispanic Heritage Trailblazer Award](#)



## HONORING THE COLORADO STATE PATROL ON ITS 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Colorado State Patrol held a highly successful car show on Saturday, September 27 at Camp George West to celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Emergency vehicles from surrounding cities were in attendance along with a number of historic vehicles including ambulances and other privately owned Colorado State Patrol cars. One historic Colorado State Patrol vehicle was trailered from Iowa to participate in the anniversary celebration. Special thanks to Barb Cisneros for bringing the 1978 Denver Police Chevy Nova to the event.



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## Honoring Officers at Denvers Country Club Neighborhood's Annual BBQ



## Youth Programs

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.

## Summer Youth Programs Update

Students from Denver's Merrill MS and DR MLK Middle Schools attended learning about GPS and how the police use it, spending time with the bomb

squad, trying on the bomb suit, learning about the K-9 bomb dogs and the robot dog, touring the museum and RTTCC , (Real time Crime Center).

Over a hearty boxed lunch students learned about the Denver Police Explorer program.



## Forensic Science Week

The museum was pleased to partner with the Denver Crime Lab for Forensic Science Week September 14-21, hosting Denver Public School middle school students at District 1 for the forensic science program. We appreciate Dustin Smith from the Crime Lab joining the program. He did a wonderful job asking

very thoughtful questions of the students while they solved an imaginary diamond heist.

[Link to Denver7 Middle-schoolers Learn Forensic Science Story](#)

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## **2025 Denver Police Museum Ornament Arriving Soon!**

We are expecting our 2025 Holiday Ornament shipment arriving early November. Order forms will be available in our fall mailer and on our webpage, and will be available for a donation of \$30. This is always a popular stocking stuffer. A limited number of previous year ornaments will be available. Stay tuned!



## **DPD Anniversary Badge**

### **Honoring America's 250th Anniversary**

We are happy to report that a special Denver Police Badge is available for retired and active Denver Police Officers who make a donation to the Denver Police Museum. Pictured below is a rendition of the special anniversary badge. Chief Thomas has approved the badge to be worn by active Denver Police Officers beginning in 2026! Supply is limited. For further details, please email [gymbuff47@comcast.net](mailto:gymbuff47@comcast.net).

# ★ DENVER ★ POLICE DEPARTMENT



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
250th Anniversary

COLORADO STATE  
150th Anniversary

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The Denver Police Museum was honored to have a special visitor stop by Headquarters with his 1978 Los Angeles Sheriff's Nova on Friday September 26. Here is his story:

# **A story about the comeback of 1978 Chevy Nova 9C1 original LA County police car...and saving a piece of GM history.**

I love the 4th Generation Novas. My first car was a 1976 2-door Chevy Nova and it was perfect in my eyes. Decades later, I bought another one and my interest only grew from there. In my mind, I always thought how it would be amazing to find and own an original Nova police car. In August 2022, that dream became a reality when I found a partially restored 1977 Nova 9C1 police car, originating from the Columbia, MO police department.

My fascination for these cars only grew from there. Months later, in November 2022, I found another Nova 9C1, and set out on a country-wide road trip to purchase it. This was a 1978 4 door located in the California desert. It was painted a very ugly green, and while the body was solid, it was in rough condition. The interior was there, but the California sun destroyed the dash. The seats were torn apart. But, it still drove! It needed some TLC but definitely savable. I knew enough that it was in fact the GM police car package based on the basic signs, but there were still many questions about its history which needed further investigation.

Is finding these Nova 9C1's important? Unequivocally, yes. Because these cars have suffered a staggering attrition rate. Of the 13,800 Nova 9C1's which were produced by GM from 1975 through 1978, only 28 are known to have survived. And the whereabouts of some of the 28 survivors are unknown to this day.

After completing the very long road trip back to NH with the Nova, the next question was, what is the car's history? After contacting the GM Heritage Archives Service, I was able to obtain a copy of the original factory invoice that this car was purchased under the GM - LA County contract. This was significant, because GM worked with the LA County Sheriff Department to test the Nova against other comparable police cars of the era. The Nova 9C1 came out on top in testing results, and the LA County Sheriff Department ordered 222 units in 1975. I also learned the car was retired from its public service in 1981 and purchased at auction.

The next question was when, and how, this car would be restored. I had no idea. While I love Novas, I'm not a mechanic and I don't have the experience,

tools nor space to fully restore a car. But I had the will and I followed my vision.

In late 2022, while perusing Facebook, I found Brian James, who had restored his own 4th Generation Nova. I watched some of his videos on his YouTube channel called “Three Rivers Wrench”. I was very impressed by his approach and attention to detail with restoring his Nova, and immediately contacted him to see if he was interested in taking on a new project.

After months of planning, the project became a reality! And so in April 2023, the restoration of this 1978 Nova 9C1 officially began. This was an exceptional opportunity to highlight the car, its history, and what it would take to bring it back to its original LA County roots. The entire restoration was covered on Brian’s YouTube channel.

A decision was also made to dedicate this car to the memory of a fallen Los Angeles County Sheriff deputy, Deputy Walter Hannan, Jr., who died on duty while driving a 1978 Nova 9C1. Deputy Hannan was responding to the aid of a fellow deputy. He was riding alongside retired Deputy Ernie Archuleta. A car pulled in front of their Nova and Deputy Hannan swerved to avoid a collision, but lost control and hit a light pole. Deputy Ernie Archuleta survived the accident but had to medically retire from the department due to injuries he sustained.

In terms of the restoration, everything was addressed, top to bottom. Repairs were made, and parts were either restored or replaced with new. Brian James of Three Rivers Wrench was meticulous about addressing every system of the car. Electrical, mechanical, and cosmetic aspects were all restored and installed masterfully. I’m fortunate to know many people in Nova collector circles which enabled me to secure many parts. I bought some Nova parts cars as well. I also leveraged Facebook marketplace and numerous other online sources to source hard to find parts. We relied on other experts for the seat upholstery, the windshield installation, vinyl graphics, sandblasting and the emergency equipment installation.

In September of 2025, the project was completed. I’ve included before and after photos. This has been a tremendous success story which required ongoing communication and coordination. Not only has the car been restored, but so has a significant piece of law enforcement history. The Chevy Nova 9C1 is

classified as a compact police car. It was developed to address the rising costs of police car operation, including fuel and maintenance costs, following the 1973 oil embargo. This Nova 9C1 featured the 350 ci engine, F41 suspension system, and many other heavy duty features, to hold up to the rigor of police car work. Please check out and subscribe to Brian's "Three Rivers Wrench" channel on YouTube for great video footage of the restoration of this car, and also join the "Nova 9C1 Police Cars" group on Facebook for more information on the history of the Chevy Nova police car.





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.

**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.**

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**Become a Member Today!**



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