



WELCOME!

New Year's Day marked the beginning of a significant number of celebrations planned across the nation and our state in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the founding of America and the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood.



As a young child in 1976, I remember many celebratory events held in honor of our nation's bicentennial. Despite the division caused by the Vietnam War and Watergate, citizens united across the country, gathering together in unity to celebrate this significant milestone for America and her people.

The America 250-Colorado 150 Commission has been coordinating many special events with various museums and communities throughout Colorado to foster similar results this historic year. In addition to recognizing those who helped shape our nation and establish this great state, I am confident that special recognition will appropriately focus on the outstanding service of our many veterans who have gallantly served our nation during the conflicts we

have faced in the last 250 years.

In this spirit, the Denver Police Museum is hosting a number of events this coming year to honor our police officers.

LAST MONTH WITH DPM



Districts 2 and 4 enjoy some Papa John's pizza on Police Appreciation Day

The Denver Police Museum was honored to partner with the Denver Police Foundation and the Denver Blue Hat Foundation this year to recognize National Police Appreciation Day in Denver. Papa John's worked with us as we

delivered Pizza to Denver Police Districts, the Denver International Airport, the Denver Crime Lab and Denver Police Headquarters. We want to thank all current and former Denver Police Officers for their service to the Citizens of Denver during the last 167 years!



DENVER POLICE
BLUE HAT FOUNDATION



Food and Toy Drive

The first food and toy drive was a great success, benefiting the Johnson Recreation Center holiday event. The food and toy donations filled a Jeep Grand Cherokee. Special thanks to the employees at Affidian Credit Union, who collected donations for us and contributed to the drive. We also raised \$370 in cash to purchase toys, with a special thanks to recruit class 2025-2. Thank you to everyone who donated and to the museum volunteers who delivered the items.



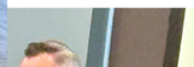


Youth Programs

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.

Law and Order

High school students learned about various sworn and civilian career paths within the criminal justice system from professionals at 911, DPD, and the DA's office on December 15, 2025. Thank you to the professionals who took the time to present to the students.





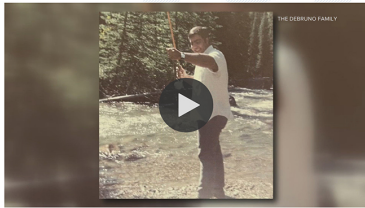
Remembering and Honoring the Legacy of Fallen Denver Police Detective Donald Lee DeBruno on the 50th Anniversary of his End Of Watch

The Museum hosted a very well attended event on December 10, 2025 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the End of Watch for Denver Police Detective Donald DeBruno at the Affidian Credit Union. Members of the Debruno family including his widow Fran DeBruno-Sebastian and his children Jennifer and Donny attended the event. We were also honored to have his grandchildren and his nephew join the event to hear first hand stories and memories about their grandfather. Denver City Councilmen Kevin Flynn and Chris Hinds sponsored a proclamation detailing important characteristics of Detective DeBruno including the fact that he was a man relished time with family and friends. A quiet man who loved trips to the mountains, fishing and riding his motorcycle. He possessed a very strong work ethic that included his off-duty drywall business with long time friend Thomas Haney. The Museum took this opportunity to replace the memorial sign located on Broadway at the Site of the Old Continental Trailway Bus station where this tragedy occurred on December 10, 1975. Former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey served as the master of ceremonies and Mark Haney highlighted the long relationship between the Haney and DeBruno families. Denver Police Retiree Association President John Schnittgrund, former Denver Police Deputy Chief Heather Coogan, Former Denver Police Detective Stan Baker and Harry and Janice Queen also attended the ceremony. Janice produced a memorial video of Detective DeBruno and a special tribute to the Denver Police Officers from the 1970s. Channel 9 Reporter Kevin Vaughan and photo journalist Bryon Reed produced a wonderful news story honoring Detective DeBruno's legacy.

CRIME

Denver police officer who lost his life 50 years ago honored for his devotion to his family, work

Murder suspect shot and killed detective Don DeBruno in confrontation at bus depot on Broadway.



Author: Kevin Vaughn
Published: 6:56 PM MST December 10, 2025
Updated: 6:06 PM MST December 10, 2025



DENVER — As the Christmas season approached, a lot of things were going well for Denver police detective Donald DeBruno — a happy marriage to his high school sweetheart, two

Click the image or [here](#) for 9News Kevin Vaughn's and Bryon Reed's Report.





Dec. 23, 2025
 Denver Police Museum
 c/o Michael Hesse

To All Concerned,

I TRULY cannot thank you all enough for making Don's 50th Memorial celebration exactly that. A Celebration of his life and his dedication to his job as a Denver Police Officer. What it did for my children, grandchildren and myself was at it's perfection to help promote continued closure for us as we journey in this life with lighter steps and with more "light and color" as my children so perfectly stated it.

Our sincere appreciation starting with the Proclamation Number 25-2043 honoring the service and sacrifice of fallen Denver Police Detective Donald L. DeBruno on the 50th. anniversary of his End of Watch, from the Denver City Council presented to us by Denver Police Chief Ron Thomas.

Continuing with our appreciation for all the speakers, Mitch Morrissey, the former Second Judicial District Attorney of Denver Colorado, retired police officer and friend Mark Hance, Deputy Chief Rick Kelo, Bill Nagle, and Kevin Vaughan with channel 9 News, and most importantly You, Mike Hesse, the President of the Denver Police Museum. Also a big thank you for the hospitality staff by offering refreshments with such warmth as they greeted everyone.

Christmas is the time for giving and sharing, and you all did both. The Memorial for Don is the Best Christmas Gift ever, and it will always be remembered as just that.

Blessings from all of Don's family,
 Fran DeBruno Sebastian





Identified man sought in several killings lies critically wounded on

Broadway after a Wednesday night shootout in which one Denver police

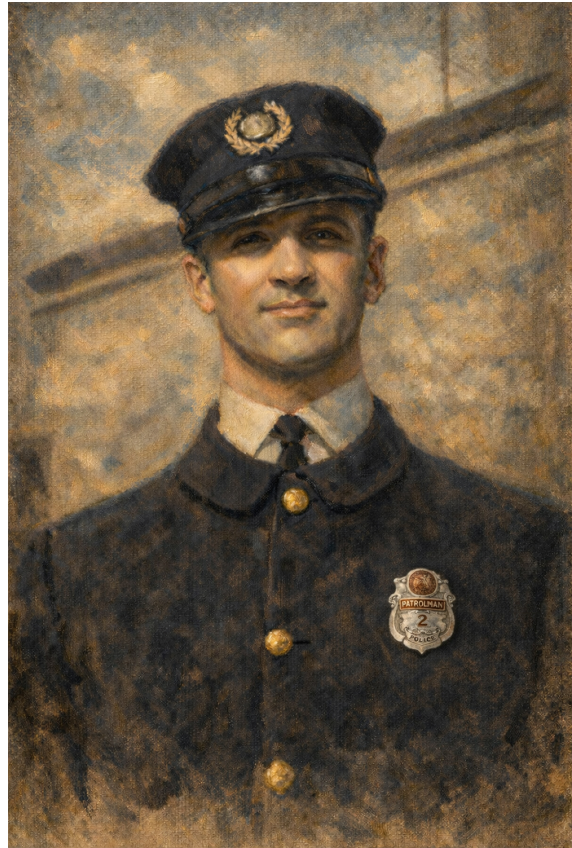
detective died and another seriously wounded.

NEWS PHOTO BY MEL



Officer Boggio Fallen Officer Sign Dedication

James Ernest Boggio was born December 1, 1895, in Silver Plume, Colorado, and grew up in Central City. He worked as an express messenger before he joined the Denver Police Department on February 14, 1918. He left the department to serve our country in the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. At the conclusion of the war, he returned to Denver and resumed his career in law enforcement.



On January 5, 1920, he was assisting a sergeant, a detective, and another officer as they were attempting to arrest Adrian Thompson, 26, a suspect in the murder of a local grocer three weeks earlier. Thompson was a career criminal and deserter from the United States Marine Corps. The incident, at 1834 West 46th Ave., turned violent with Officer Boggio being fatally wounded and dying on January 8, 1920, after unsuccessful surgical efforts to remove three bullets. Thompson was also killed during the shootout.






In Memory of
Denver Police Patrolman
James E. Boggio
January 8, 1920

Sponsored by Michael Hesse

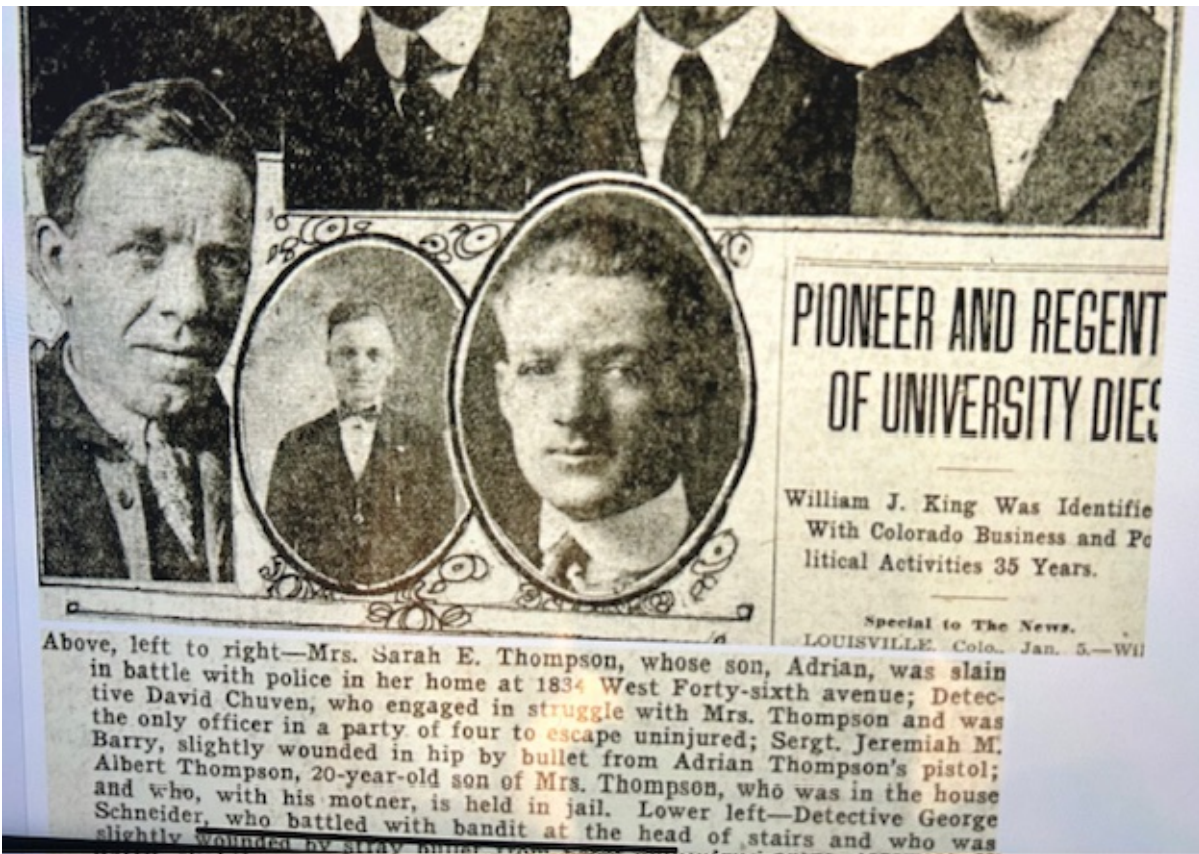


POLICEMAN WILLIAM C. KEATING
EOW: 8-31-1931
CLARENCE W. ALSTON
EOW: 3-24-1929
THOMAS J. DURKIN
EOW: 1-7-1929
HARRY R. OHLE
EOW: 2-1928
PETER I. RICH
EOW: 1927
SHANNON
EOW: 5
ROSE
ERTON

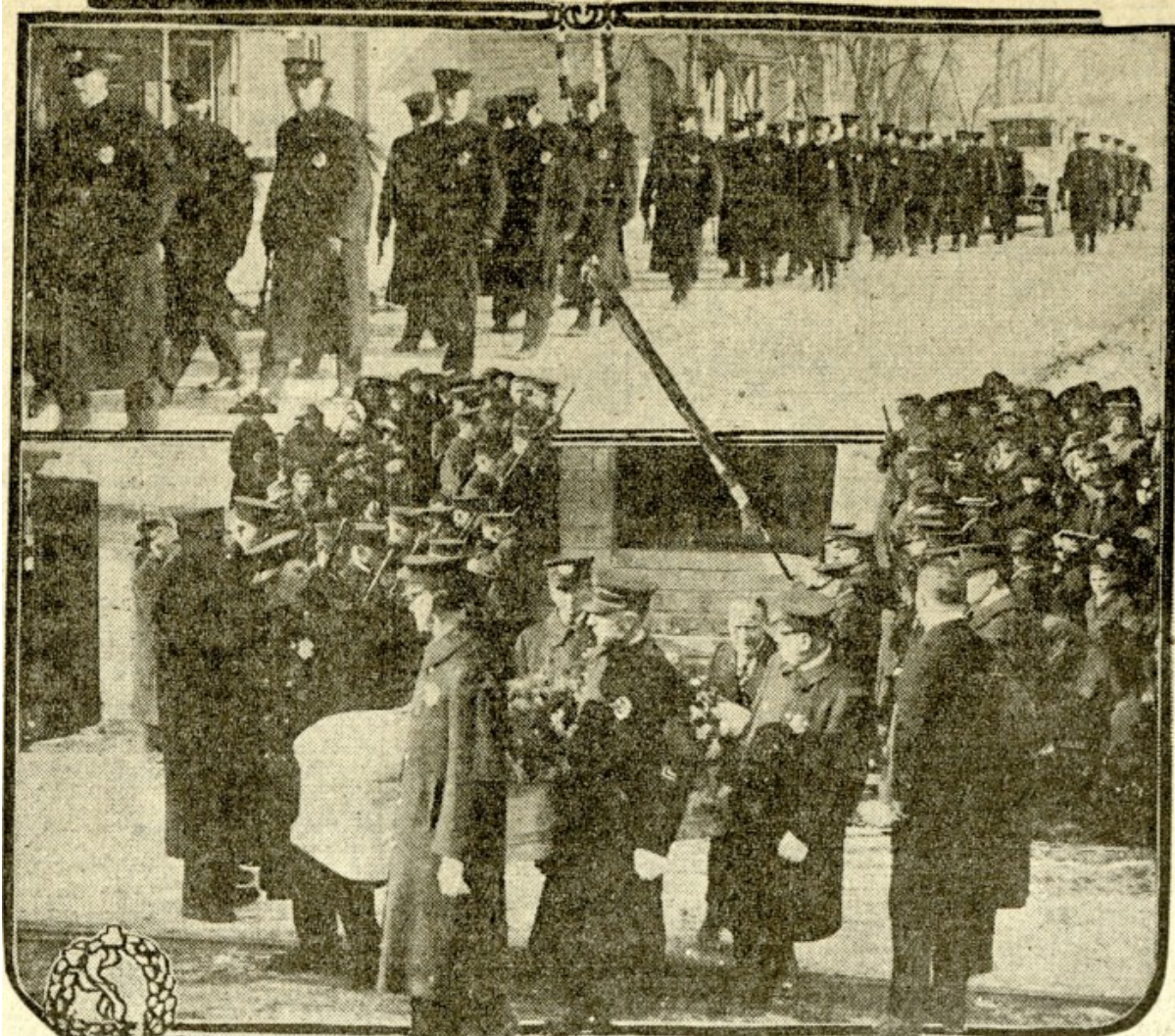
POLICEMAN FORREST ROSS
EOW: 4-4-1921
POLICEMAN CLARENCE E. ZIETZ
EOW: 4-2-1921
POLICEMAN WILLIAM O. STEAM
EOW: 2-18-1921
POLICEMAN ROY O. DOWNING
EOW: 12-1-1920
PATROLMAN JAMES E. BOGGIO
EOW: 1-8-1920
DETECTIVE GEORGE C. KLEIN
EOW: 8-29-1919
POLICEMAN EMERSON L. MCKINNON
EOW: 5-20-1919
PATROLMAN PETER A. WALSH
EOW: 11-23-1918
PATROLMAN FRANK S. POTESTIO
EOW: 11-22-1918

POLICEMAN WILLIAM
EOW: 8
POLICEMAN V
EOW:
POLICEMAN
EOW:
CAPTAIN V
EOW:
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Above, left to right—Mrs. Sarah E. Thompson, whose son, Adrian, was slain in battle with police in her home at 1834 West Forty-sixth avenue; Detective David Chuyen, who engaged in struggle with Mrs. Thompson and was the only officer in a party of four to escape uninjured; Sergt. Jeremiah M. Barry, slightly wounded in hip by bullet from Adrian Thompson's pistol; Albert Thompson, 20-year-old son of Mrs. Thompson, who was in the house and who, with his mother, is held in jail. Lower left—Detective George Schneider, who battled with bandit at the head of stairs and who was slightly wounded by stray bullet.



Denver Police Museum Fallen Officer Christmas Trees

2025 marked another year where we placed Christmas trees in the lobby of both Fairmount and Crown Hill Cemeteries with ornaments honoring the service of our 78 fallen Denver Police Officers. We want to thank the leadership of both cemeteries for allowing us the opportunity to highlight the service and sacrifice of our officers during the holiday season. A special thank you to Denver Police Museum volunteers Sharon Baker, and Kenny and April Overman for taking the time to decorate the trees. We also acknowledge Denver Police Museum Volunteer Diane Degenhart for her efforts to assist with the Museum's Annual Christmas 2025 Ornaments distribution and the wonderful design work of Retired Denver Police Sgt. Dean Christopherson. We sold a large number of the collectible ornaments again this year and this would not have been possible without both Diane and Dean's efforts.



DPM Awarded Canvas Foundation Grant

We are truly grateful to the Canvas Foundation for approving our 2025 grant application! This grant is an investment in our community programming that directly strengthens our work with Denver-area youth, families, and law enforcement, and it means a great deal to our entire organization.



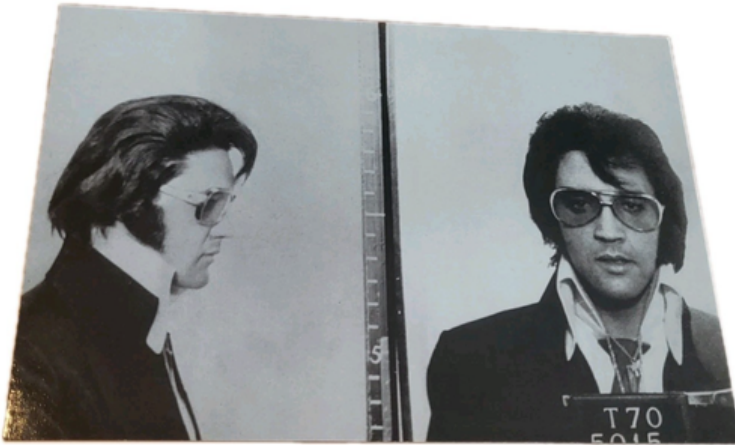
foundation

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.





From the Archives

Denver Police
Department Booking
Photo: Elvis Presley

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!**

As we look forward to the hope and promise of 2026, 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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