WELCOME!

The past month has been a whirlwind for the Denver Police Museum! We enjoyed hosting Denver Police Week, the Wreaths Across America ceremony, and several other special programs. The Museum continues to be a place where members of the community can come together to honor our fallen officers and their families. In advance the message of the critical role law enforcement provides to our community and to celebrate the many figures who have played an important role in developing the Denver Police Department. We hope you enjoy the past and our hundred and sixty-seven years!

Denver Police Week 2026

Honorable Prince Albert was recognized with the lighting of the Memorial Clock at Civic Center Building. We greatly appreciate the Denver Arts & Venues agency for allowing us to honor our fallen officers and their families in this special way. We want to remember the 56 fallen Denver Police Officers and the nearly 5,000 men and women who have taken an oath to protect and serve the citizens of the City and County of Denver.

Wreath Laying Ceremonies

The Museum organized wreath laying ceremonies at the four major Denver cemeteries: Fairmount, Riverside, Fort Logan National, Mount Olivet, Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Chicago Crown Hill Cemetery, Riverside Historic Cemetery and Fairmount Cemetery. 67 of our 76 fallen officers are buried in these locations.

We want to thank the many volunteers who worked diligently to ensure these ceremonies were well organized and meaningful. A special thank you to the following volunteers:

Crown Hill: Holly Ryan (Captain), Diana Degenhart, Sharon Dwyer and Rebecca Sgt Chris Gregg organized the wreath laying ceremony. Members of the Blue Raging, Donald DeBruno, and James Bier families joined volunteers for those ceremonies. Denver Sheriff Department Honor Guard, Denver Fire Honor Guard and guest from Gresham Lincoln High school presented the colors. We were honored to have Andrew Huxley and her daughter (Regan), Doctor Susan Hutchinson, Jeff Bartels and Jeff Bartels Jr. Denver Sheriff Department Chaplain Eric Dadeau from District 4 represented DPD chaplains and DPD volunteers.

Riverside: Ed Nagle (Captain) and Kurt Overman organized the wreath ceremonies. Most of our fallen officers are in this cemetery. The Franklin Young Marines presented the colors at the cemetery and read the various narratives. Denver Sheriff Department Honor Guard, Denver Fire Honor Guard, Boy Scouts Troop 54 joining us at this location. Randy Johnson (past Chaplain Regan), Denver Chaplain represented the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Fairmount: Michael Martinez (Captain), Barb Gimbara and Ralph Meissner organized the wreath ceremonies. Retired DPD Sgt. Carlos Hassell represented the Colleen Frelle family, and members of the Bernal family attended the wreath laying ceremony. Denver Sheriff Department Honor Guard and Commander Joel Bell from District 2 represented DPD leadership.

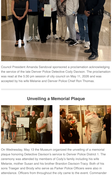
Fort Logan: Linda Remley (Captain) organized the wreath laying ceremonies for Fred Blaze, Donnie Young and Dale Coats. The coins guard consisted of all young women was from John F. Kennedy High School. Members of the Mayor Michael Hancock, Denver City Council, Denver Sheriff Department, Daughters of Veterans of Mount Rose Chapter (children of the Daughters of the American Revolution) along with Commander Brad Quatley of District 4 represented DPD leadership.

Mount Olivet: Mike Vasse (Captain) and Renee Lang organized the wreath ceremonies. Most of our fallen officers are in this cemetery. Approximately 21 to 21 family members from Shannon, Mabry, Pasetti and Schwarz all attended the wreath laying ceremonies. This was the first time members of Shannon family attended a ceremony since the death of Jack Shannon. Denver Sheriff Department Honor Guard, Jeffers Boy Scout Troop, Gresham Boy Scouts, descendants here in Denver. He was killed in the first mass shooting in Denver Police History. Chaplain Eric Dadeau from District 4 represented DPD chaplains associated with the officers in this cemetery. DPD leadership was represented by Lt. Kevin Ames from Denver Police District 6. We also were joined by Mary Ann Ryan, Denver Colorado Rendezvous Chapter, 8 sergeants of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Leetaballe COP Shop Volunteers

A special thank you to Sucan Neaville and the volunteers from the Leetaballe COP Shop who provided a delicious breakfast for the Wreaths Across America Museum placed on the graves of our fallen officers. Their hard work brought an important element of class and grace to each wreath ceremony and we want to show our appreciation.

Honoring the Memory of Detective Cody Davison



Council President Amanda Sawyer sponsored a proclamation acknowledging the service of the late Denver Police Detective Cody Davison. The proclamation was read by Council Member Jamie Torres. Cody's family was also recognized by his wife Melanie and Denver Police Chief Pen Thomas.

Unveiling a Memorial Plaque

On Wednesday, Mar 11 the Museum celebrated the unveiling of a memorial plaque honoring Detective Fernando Lucero, a Denver Police Officer. The ceremony was attended by members of Cody's family including his wife Melanie, his daughter Ashley, his son Ryan and his son-in-law Ryan. Cody's family and friends who worked at Denver Police Officers were also in attendance. Officers from throughout the city came to the event. Commander Joel Bell represented District 2 and Lt. Kevin Ames from Denver Police District 1 since it is named and a replica badge shown. The Museum presented Cody's family with a 250100 Commemorative Badge honoring his service. Detective Davison passed away in Illness in September 2025.

Honoring our Fallen Denver Police Officers

Thank you for generous support of Wings Credit Union and Denver Police Foundation Board Member Chaun Powell, the Denver Police Museum was able to purchase and place a memorial bench in Civic Center Park. Many of our fallen heroes were represented at the event in addition to members of the O'Hayre family who were recognized as the 2026 legacy family for their over 200 years of service to the community. Denver Police Chief Pen Thomas, Commander John Walsh served as master of ceremonies, and with former Denver Police Chief Jim Collier and current Denver Police Chief Pen Thomas gave heartfelt remarks at the beginning of the dinner.

We want to thank Denver Police District 1 Commander Aaron Rabiedeaux, Lieutenant Kevin Ames and District 1 officers who provided a beautiful and an unlikely intelligence program that significantly heightened the protocols that gave them life-like quality. The Museum took those photos and printed them on canvas and placed them on the tables for the attendees to enjoy. Many family surviving friends posted photos along with a 250100 commemorative badge to honor and recognize the sacrifice of their loved ones.

During the dinner special presentations were made to recognize Wilson Creek Grove Freedom Christine Wiley, for her 40 years of helping Denver Officers. Denver Sheriff Department Deputy Sheriff Ryan Ortiz received the Denver Police Detective Bear Award for his many years of service to DPD and his strong support for the Denver Police Museum.

Fallen Officer Family Reception
Chief's Conference Room
Day of the Memorial

Chief Pen Thomas again graciously granted the Museum use of his conference room for the family reception for the families of our fallen officers on Memorial. Over 40 family members attended the reception and meet the annual memorial ceremony in the place. A special thank you to the following active officers who provided a tour of the Chief's conference room and its many artifacts: Officer Sarra Kelsey, Lt. Chris Jones, Detective Mark Cooke, Sgt. Kimberly Trudell, Lt. Abel Salas, Detective Daniel Andrews, Corporal Sadie Ramirez, Detective Jeremy Ramirez, Officer Ryan Ortiz, Officer Jesse Pacanowski, Sgt. Adam Pines and Sgt. Carlos Castillo. We greatly appreciate Technician Teresa Gilliam for organizing this important effort.

37th Annual Fallen Officer Ceremony
Thursday, May 14, 2026

This year, the Denver Police Department along with the Blue Hat Fundraiser, Denver Police Foundation and the Denver Police Museum hosted the annual Fallen Officer Ceremony. This ceremony was the brain child of former Denver Police Chief Jim Collier and serves as the focus of police week activities.

Lt. Laura Franklin did a wonderful job organizing the ceremony and related activities. In addition to Lt. Franklin the following officers played a critical role in the success of the ceremony: Officer Ryan Ortiz, Officer Jesse Pacanowski, Corporal Lab Kim set a selective the meeting of the ceremony and members of the Denver Honor Guard including Officer Brett Mikkonuksen, Officer Thao Lazer and Officer Jesse Pacanowski. Denver Sheriff Department Honor Guard, Gresham, Officer Donald Davis, Detective Denise Gomez, Detective Brian Yates and Detective Josh Harvey did a terrific job as usual. The national anthem was informally sung by Sgt Ryan Wadsworth and Sgt Kim Trujillo.

Denver Mayor Michael Johnson, Executive Director Al Gardner, Denver District Attorney Beth McCann, Denver City Council President Amanda Sawyer acknowledged(sang) about the importance of Peace Week and remembering our fallen heroes.

The ceremony concluded with the call of our fallen heroes by Technicians Todd Jones and Candice Cosgrove. We also had the Honor Bell Foundation ring the bell for our fallen heroes. Denver Police Chief Pen Thomas rang the shoes and the Metro SWAT swing a K-9 gun salute which added a degree of somber elegance to the memorial events.

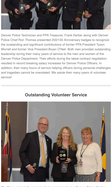
Memorial Luncheon
Denver Crime Lab

The memorial event for Fallen Metro SWAT was the annual luncheon at the Denver Crime Lab. Commander Brad Quatley hosted the luncheon. The Blue Hat Foundation and the Denver Police Foundation provided the centerpiece from Wilson Creek Grove Freedom Christine Wiley. Denver Sheriff Department Honorees and Denver Police Officers honored were Lt Chaunce Christie, Mauricio Mockrock. Christie also set up a symbolic fallen officer table at the lunch which was very rich in meaning. During the program she expressed what each item meant and the important numbers in expression.

Recognizing the O'Hayre Family

Former Denver Sheriff Matthew Miller, Mike Vasse and the Master of Ceremonies for the lunch, The O'Hayre family was honored for their over 200 years of law enforcement service to the community. Former Denver Sheriff Matthew Miller and one of the O'Hayre family recognized included William and Paul who both served in the 1950's. Former Division Chief Dan O'Hayre, Detective Kelly O'Hayre, Detective Jeff O'Hayre, Sergeant Jeff O'Hayre and Officer Ryan O'Hayre were mentioned in the presentation. Additionally Former Deputy Chief David Quickenden and Commander Paul Jimenez who are both married into the family were also recognized. Former Denver Division Chief Dan O'Hayre accepted the honor on behalf of the family.

Recognizing the Leadership of the Denver Police Protective Association



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Outstanding Volunteer Service

The Museum took the opportunity to recognize former Denver Police Captain Emanuel Jerome Springer who has managed the Inspir Denver Police Museum program. The Colorado Wolves have total program and the 2026100 Commemorative Badge honoring the Denver Police Museum. Jerome is responsible ensuring officers across the Denver Metro area have their assorted stickers and their badge orders are efficiently processed with Sun Badge Corporation. This recognition was long overdue.

76 Boots
Saluting Denver's 76 Fallen Denver Police Officers

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Former Denver Sheriff Deputy Ron Nakamura, Detective Mark Shields and Museum President Mike Vasse unveiled a long-lined 76 Boots. The Museum plans to incorporate the song in the upcoming graduate ceremonies and other events. Former Denver Sheriff Nakamura and Detective Shields have impressive number 76 tattoo plaques respecting the number and who in attendance (along to salute Det Sam R. Mason Jr.).

Become a Member

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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