



DENVER POLICE MUSEUM

Winter 2014, Volume 3, Issue 1

Fallen Officer Widow Pat Nading Amman Encourages Current Officers to Support Museum Project

Denver Police Officer Merle Nading was shot and killed more than 43 years ago and yet the re-telling of his story is moving current police officers to support the establishment of the Denver Police Museum. His widow, Pat Nading Amman, has been visiting current officers at Roll Calls in each of Denver's Police Districts to share her family's personal story with them.

Her recounting of how the death of her husband at the hands of an assailant and the assailants subsequent acquittal affected her and her two young boys, deeply resonates with the active officers.

She is a strong proponent of building the Denver Police Law Enforcement Museum to honor those who served and to educate generations of young people about the lives and sacrifices of the men and women of the department that makes up Denver's law enforcement history. She asks the officers to contribute to the police museum through Employee Payroll Contributions.

"I have told this story to many different audiences over the years since he was killed," she said recently. "But I have never received as warm a reception as I am receiving now from his fellow Denver Police officers." It's been a long time and no one

*Please see **PAT NADING AMMAN**, page 4*



Pat Nading Amman stands before a picture of her late husband, Fallen Officer Merle E. Nading Jr., at Denver Police Dist. 2, where the gym built in his memory has been relocated.



Current and Former Denver Police Chiefs are offering support and encouragement to the board for the establishment of the Denver Police Museum. Here former Denver Police Chiefs join current Chief Robert White at a luncheon in August to get an update on the museum. (Left to right) Chief Jerry Whitman, Chief Robert White, Chief Tom Coogan and Chief Ari Zavaras.

Message from the Board – Open House Planned for Spring

The Denver Police Law Enforcement Museum Board is pleased to announce that another milestone has been reached in its efforts to establish a permanent museum dedicated to law enforcement in the city.

An Open House for retirees, widows, current officers, friends and supporters of the museum and the general public is being planned in May during Police Week to inaugurate the new space in headquarters dedicated

*Please see **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD**, page 2*

2013 Denver Police Law Enforcement Museum Donors

We are so appreciative of those who, very early on, believed this project is not only possible, but essential. We gratefully acknowledge your contributions. Together we can build a great museum!

Abe and Amy Alonzo	Don Hailpern	Cmdr. William "Bill" Nagel
Art and Itsu Arita	David Haley	Barbara Nelson
Benjamin Austin	Manuel and Angie Hays	Marc and Dee Northrup
Bear Valley Cop Shop Crew	Carlyn Haz	Deryl Novak
Tom Beaver	Jack Helm	Thomas Nunn
Jean Beringer	Sarah Brittain Jack	Mary Oman
Walt Brewer	Marian Jensen	Barbara O'Neal
Julia Brooks	Rich and Sue Jones	Robert Ortiz
Harry Brungardt	Arthur and Janice Johansen	Robert Palfrey
Harry Burroughs	Dorothy Keeley	Ramona Peachey
Raymond Burns	Winfred Kidd	Tech. James Pelloni
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William Card	Gregory Laberge	Richard Petry
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Shirley Grantham	William Myers	Michael Zimmer
Flora Louise Greene		
David J. Gross		



This 1940 photo from the Denver Public Library's collection of the Denver Police Department shows officers practicing urban shooting skills with Thompson machine guns and Model 1897 shotguns.

Denver Police Officers Support the Museum through Payroll Deductions

The Board wishes to thank the following officers who have signed up to donate to the museum monthly after hearing a presentation from the Museum Board. The Board has not yet made their presentation to District 5. Several officers notified Human Resources directly of their desire to contribute through payroll deductions and their names and those who sign up from District 5 will appear in the next Newsletter.

District 1

Julian Archuleta
John Ashcraft
Victor D. Baca
Eric Chapman
James Costigan
Kevin Frazer
Anthony Gallegos
Denise Gomez
Armando Jaramillo
Curtis Larson
Keith Lewis
Ernest Martin
Ernest Martinez
Johnny Martinez
John Mehrtens
Eric Morales
Wile Morghem
Scott Murphy
Dan Osman
Jay Otey
Juan Pacheco
Duane Parton
Antoinette Perez
Jennifer Porter
Marika Putnam
Steve Rieck
Shawn Saunders
Thomas Steen
Binh Tran

District 2

Christopher Archuleta
Jeffrey Behnke
Brian Bienemann
Matthew Cleveland
Del Creason
David J. Curtis
Sheldon Doell
Gregory Gentry
Eric Gray
Daniel Greene
Ronald Hackett

Nicolas Hassman
Ray Hild
Christopher Johnson
Darin Joko
Justin Jones
Chad Kendall
Randall S. Krouse
Leonard Mares
James Medina
Robert Garcia
Tim Scudder
Alvin Shell
Alvin Thompson
Vincent Young

District 3

Johnna Aitken
Robert A. Anderson
Michael Barnes
Mark "Tyler" Blakesley
Brian Camozzi
Jared Epp
Raymond Guadiana
Kimalee Hull
Richard Jaramillo
Eugene McComas
Phillip Mitchell
Brian Pacheco
David Rodriguez
Ruben Rojas
Nicolas Sagan
Rosemary Sapegin
Aubree Thompson
Brian Urlik
Jamison Waldrop
Robert Winckler

District 4

Wilfred Beliveau
Christine Chavez
Jon Crowe
David Evans
Anita Galicia

Robbie Gilmour
Jimmy Gose
Nicholas Grove
John Johnson
Jorge Hernandez
Gerald Hoff
Benjamin Martinez, Jr.
Jason Moore
Dennis Moran
William Nagle
Matthew Peltier
Mario Renteria
Moses Rodriguez
Joseph Sartain
Joshua Vasconcellos
Douglas Watson

HO:

Mark Allen
Betty Hale
James Pelloni

District 6

David Abeyta
John Akins
Johnna Anthony
Aaron Carlson
Andrew Clarry
Richard Fischer
Ronald Fox
John Gottschalk
James Harvey IV
Richard Laber
Michael Lumbar
Marion Penn
Rudy Manzanaras
Jason Mejia
Damian Phillips
Michael Pineda
Michael Reifsteck
Nicholas Rocco-McKeel
Samuel Stigler
Terry Waldie



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD, from page 1

to the museum. The exact date of the Open House will be determined shortly and announced to all. Everyone who would like to attend is welcome!

“Just having this space is a giant step forward in establishing the actual museum, explained Dean Christopherson, museum board president. We finally have a location to begin archiving every artifact and piece of memorabilia that has been donated to the museum in the last five years so it will be ready to

display when the actual museum opens.

“Credit should go to Kasha Przywitowski of the Division of Real Estate and Laura Wachter of the Office of the Manager of Safety,” according to Christopherson. They helped facilitate the use of the former Juvenile Intake Center space in headquarters for the museum until it finds a permanent location. These photos show volunteers, moving the operation into the new space.

The board is pleased to have a location actually in police headquarters to organize its collection. Current officers, staff and

Please see MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD, page 4

Fallen Officer Merle E. Nading

July 3, 1941 – October 3, 1971

More than 2,500 mourners, including 1,800 police officers, sheriff’s deputies and firemen and 700 civilians gathered to pay tribute to Fallen Denver Police Officer Merle Nading at his funeral in 1971. It was believed to be the largest funeral for a police officer in Denver’s history.

The United Methodist Church where Officer Nading and his wife Patricia had been married 12 years before could not hold the crowds. It took more than an hour for the policeman’s family and other mourners to file past the open coffin to pay their respects.

Patrolman Nading was killed in the line of duty in 1971 when Denver, as the rest of the country, was going through a period of racial and civil unrest. Obituaries and editorials at the time of his killing bemoaned the lack of respect for the law and civic institutions.

But the true consequences of Nading’s untimely death fell mostly on his widow and his two young sons whose lives have been forever changed by the absence of their husband and father.

On Sunday, October 3, 1971, Patrolman Nading was attempting to quiet a disturbance in the parking lot of Clark’s Diner at 2201 East Colfax Ave. He observed a man and a woman quarreling and arrested the man on a disturbance

charge. Patrons of the nearby Shapes Lounge gathered in the parking lot and began to harass Nading.

Off-duty officer Robert Wallis came to assist Nading. Nading gave him custody of the suspect and started walking

around the back of his patrol car to inform the dispatcher of the growing crowd. One man in the crowd threw a punch at Nading, and when he started to arrest the man, a second man interfered and Nading grabbed him.

While Nading was holding the second man in a headlock, the man reached around the officer’s body, snatched his gun and fired once. Nading was shot in the back. When Wallis saw Nading fall, he let go of his suspect and went to Nading’s aid. All of the suspects in the parking lot then fled.

Nading was pronounced dead upon arrival at Denver General Hospital. A manhunt resulted, and the suspect, Kenneth Ray Green, was apprehended in Texas. He was returned to Colorado, where he stood trial for the murder of Officer Nading. He was acquitted, and many officers and the Denver Police Union were highly critical of the manner in which the district attorney’s office handled this case.

Officer Nading’s sons who were 8 and 10 at the time of his death have lived lives their father would have been proud of. The elder, Lance, became a restaurateur and owned four Denver Metro restaurants at one time, only Pints Pub remains. He changed directions to real estate and now builds high end homes as a land developer throughout the state of Colorado.

The younger son, Todd chose a military career and became an Air Force pilot, He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service and is now a pilot for Frontier airlines.





This cartoon was drawn by retired DPD Officer Larry Amman to remind everyone to save artifacts they may have collected from their time with the Denver Police Department and donate them to the Denver Police Museum. Amman's artistic ability and terrific sense of humor led him to draw cartoons about the inter-workings of the department during the 35 years he was on the job from 1961 to 1997. Although the Museum Board is still looking for a permanent location for the museum, it is now using space in the former Juvenile Detention Center in headquarters as an Administrative Center to research, archive and store articles donated to the museum. So clean out your garage and donate your treasures to history.

You can support the Denver Police Law Enforcement Museum in the following ways:

- I want to volunteer for the museum.
- I want to share my story about the Denver Police Department.
- I want to donate an artifact to the museum.
- I want to to underwrite an Oral History segment.
- I want to make a contribution to the museum. Enclosed is my contribution of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Contribute online at www.denverpolicemuseum.org or mail contribution to PO Box 9140, Denver, CO 80209.



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Denver, CO 80209

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD, from page 2

other visitors can follow the progress being made and hopefully be reminded to donate articles of their own of historical significance to help tell the Denver Police Department's story.

He emphasized that this is not the permanent location where the museum will be located, but an interim space where volunteers can work on getting our collection ready to be displayed when the museum is located in a permanent site.

In other board news, work is progressing on the Oral Histories Project which is an effort to record as many retired officers and widows as possible. Project Coordinators and Retired Officers Darrel Behrendsen and Leo Bellio have recorded more than 60 of the Oral Histories. Each participating individual receives a DVD of their session. If you would like to participate please call Darrel at **303-771-1219** or Leo at **303-423-7871**.

PAT NADING AMMAN, from page 1

currently on the job, knew him, she said. But many have heard of him and are interested in hearing the complete story from someone who was there.

Pat tells the officers that she looks forward to the day when she can take her grandchildren to the museum to show them what their grandfather and other Denver Police officers actually did on the job and what a good man he was. It will be much better than taking them to the cemetery, she said.

Almost a year to the day after Officer Nading was killed, Pat went to work at the Denver Police Department as a civilian employee. She spent 18 "wonderful" years in several different assignments, but ultimately transferred to Denver International Airport after completing a college degree. She was heavily involved in the "big move" from Stapleton to DIA.