

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-1506

Honoring Former Denver Police Officer and Disability Advocate Dale Coski

WHEREAS, Dale Coski was born in Maryland to Jerome and Genevieve Coski on November 28, 1956. She grew up in the Denver area and graduated from Kennedy High School in 1974. After high school, she attended Loretto Heights College. She entered The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament after her sophomore year and became a teacher in Chicago. Dale tried religious life, spending time in initial formation but left before profession vows. Dale's religious beliefs always played an important role in her life; and

WHEREAS, Dale joined the United States Army and served for over three years as an Army Sergeant Intelligence Officer during the Cold War. She was honorably discharged in 1981. After leaving the Army she became a Denver police officer. While on duty in 1983, Dale was struck by an automobile as she was assisting a stranded motorist. Dale lost her left leg above the knee, lived with a closed head injury and dealt with quadriplegia. This experience and her own disability did not stop Dale as she became an advocate and champion for those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Dale had many accomplishments during her almost 30-year career with the City and County of Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships. She helped enforce compliance of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and later continued her advocacy under The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. She helped create the Denver Disability Parking Enforcement Program and was instrumental in the disability parking application programs which was a model nationally. Dale also put forth state legislation in 1989 regarding parking passes that permit persons with disabilities to park in specially marked areas; and

WHEREAS, "perseverance" is a word that many used to describe Dale, so it was fitting that her first service dog was named Perseverance (nicknamed Persey). Persey was the first service dog in Colorado and they had an extraordinary partnership. Persey was by her side when she testified in 1985 in support of granting service dogs access. Through the years Dale partnered with many service dogs who accompanied her during her advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Dale married Alice Fritz on December 10, 2015 and was a dedicated partner through difficult times for both. Dale is survived by Alice, her life-long friend Kathy Flanagan, her nephew James Marcil, his wife Venus and son James, her sister Jean Bondio, her faithful caretakers Christal, Sara and Toni, and an extraordinary number of friends and colleagues.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes and acknowledges the outstanding work, advocacy and service that Dale Coski provided to our nation, our state and our community throughout her life.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Coski family, the Denver Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, the Denver Police Department, and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 28, 2024

Amursh P. Sandoval

PRESIDENT

