

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation

Proclamation No. 25-2043

Honoring the service and sacrifice of fallen Denver Police Detective Donald L. DeBruno on the 50th anniversary of his End of Watch

WHEREAS, Donald Lee DeBruno was born in Denver on Oct. 5, 1945 to Sam and Jenny DeBruno; and

WHEREAS, he was born into a family where he was the youngest sibling, with a half-brother Lee Fieccobrino, half-sister Mickey Teague, and another brother Roger; and

WHEREAS, Don grew up in north Denver, attending Brown Elementary School, and graduating from North High School in 1963; and

WHEREAS, at age 18 and while attending North High School, he met his future wife Fran, then 17, and asked her for a date for homecoming, which thrilled Fran who realized during that first date that Don would be the man she was going to marry; and

WHEREAS, Don and Fran were married in August 1966 and went on to have two children, a daughter Jennifer and son Donald; and

WHEREAS, Don attended the University of Colorado at Denver, working as a gas station attendant and later at the Denver Federal Center in a lab setting; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Don successfully graduated from the Denver Police Academy, joining the department with badge number 69-40 and was assigned to the patrol division; and

WHEREAS, Officer DeBruno was quickly recognized for his many talents, and was promoted to the position of technician and later assigned to serve in the homicide division; and

WHEREAS, Technician DeBruno, like many officers, would sometimes work two or three jobs off duty, and he and his good friend Officer Thomas Haney started a dry wall business to help pay the family bills; and

WHEREAS, Don had many hobbies including playing the trumpet, going to the mountains to fish and riding motorcycles with Fran and other police officers and their wives; and

WHEREAS, Don was very well liked and was a family man who relished spending time with his wife and children and loved attending gatherings of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, he was a quiet man who was very open to everyone, and had a reputation as someone who would listen when no one else would and give his all to those in need; and

WHEREAS, on the night of Dec. 10, 1975, Detective DeBruno was shot and killed while he and his partner attempted to serve warrants on a man wanted for six thefts in Kentucky and the murder of a man in Toronto, Canada; and

WHEREAS, Detective DeBruno's death was met with great sorrow in our community with more than 1,400 people attending his memorial service,

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

Section 1. That Denver City Council declares Dec. 10, 2025 as Donald L. Bruno Memorial Day in Denver and acknowledges the sacrifice of fallen Denver Police Detective DeBruno for the Citizens of the City and County of Denver and honors his family's resilience and love at the 50th anniversary of his End of Watch.

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 a copy be transmitted to the DeBruno family, the Denver Police Museum, and the Denver Police Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DEC. 8, 2025

Signed by:
Amanda P. Sandoval
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PRESIDENT