

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0641 Honoring the Dill Family for their service to the Denver Police Department

WHEREAS, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy declared through presidential proclamation the week of May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Week in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Police Museum has instituted its legacy program to honor multi-generational law enforcement service and has chosen to honor the accomplishments of the Dill Family — the only family in Denver Police history to produce two chiefs of police; and

WHEREAS, Harold A. and Arthur G. were born to Luther and Lilly Allison in Denver, and their brothers and sisters included Dahlia, Theo, Helen, Donald and Glen; and

WHEREAS, although Harold and Art were 16 years apart in age, they shared much in common, as each of them attended Greenlee Elementary School, Baker Junior High and West High School, began their careers working in small grocery stores in the community and served our nation in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Harold Dill began his career with the Denver Police Department as a patrol officer on May 1, 1935, serving in a variety of positions within the department before Mayor Tom Currigan, upon being elected mayor in 1963 in the aftermath of a burglary scandal that resulted in the convictions of more than 50 officers, appointed Harold Dill as chief due to his reputation among the rank and file for his candor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Harold Dill retired as Denver Police Chief on Dec. 31, 1968, and passed away on Sept. 11, 1985, leaving a legacy of unflagging support for the uniformed officers on the street, reduced crime in the city and improved morale within the department; and

WHEREAS, Art Dill joined the Denver Police Department on Oct. 1, 1950, as a patrol officer, and served as detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and division chief, and was so highly respected that he was placed in charge of the investigation of the department during the burglary scandal, leading a tough and thorough probe that was a key element in regaining the department's credibility with the community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill McNichols appointed Art Dill as police chief on June 30, 1972, and gave him wide latitude in important personnel and administrative decisions, which enabled him to improve morale, modernize the department and make it a national model for law enforcement throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dill served as Denver Police Chief for 11 years, the second longest tenure in the 165-year history of the department, retiring on June 1, 1983, and passing away on Sept. 7, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Art's wife, Marie Dill, also served as a career employee on the Denver Police Department in several capacities including in the records division, traffic and the probation department, and was active with the Denver Police Retiree Association for many years; and

WHEREAS, Marie Dill, who passed away Jan. 1 of this year, was loved by the rank and file, and treated the officers as her second family, making many dear friends along the way.

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

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver acknowledges the outstanding public safety leadership and the many years of service provided to the people of Denver by the Dill family.

Section 2. That the Clerk 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 Harold Dill Family, the Arthur Dill family and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 13, 2024

PRESIDENT

