

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0717

Honoring the Powers family for multi-generational service to the Denver Police Department

WHEREAS, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy issued a proclamation that the week of May 15 be designated National Peace Officers Memorial Week in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Police Museum has instituted its Legacy Program to honor and recognize multi-generational law enforcement service to our community and has chosen to highlight the Powers family for Police Week 2025; and

WHEREAS, the many years of service from the Powers family began with Michael E. Powers, who was born October 4, 1889, in Atchinson, Kansas, and moved to Denver as a young child, later marrying Mary Paternoster and having several sons: Thomas E. Powers, William J. Powers and James Powers; and

WHEREAS, Michael Powers joined the Denver Police Department in December 1920 and served 30 years walking the beat in every downtown precinct, serving as the head of the Juvenile Division, as a motorcycle officer and as a detective before retiring in December 1950; and

WHEREAS, all three of his sons and one grandson took the oath to serve and protect the citizens of the City and County of Denver as police officers; and

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Powers, the oldest son, was born Sept. 23, 1913, graduated in 1931 from North High School, served as a red cap at Denver Union Station until 1942, then married Ann Skrocki and joined the Denver Police Department along with his brother William in December 1942; and

WHEREAS, Thomas served as a patrol officer and detective in Auto Theft before retiring from the Denver Police Department in April 1973 after 30 years of service, but was quickly hired by Denver District Attorney Dale Tooley as an investigator, serving until 1983; and

WHEREAS, William J. Powers, the middle son, was born Feb. 28, 1915, graduated from North High School in 1933 and married Alice Mary Skrocki in 1934, later having three children, Mary Lou, Sandra and Thomas Powers; and

WHEREAS, William took leave from the Denver Police Department in June 1945 to serve in the U.S. Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, before returning to the department in May 1946 where he served for 25 years as a patrol and motorcycle officer, retiring Jan. 1, 1968, and finishing his career as an investigator for a local law firm; and

WHEREAS, the youngest son, James C. Powers, was born March 10, 1920, graduated from Regis High School in 1938, attended St. Mary's College in California on a football scholarship, enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1942, was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1943, all before marrying Sophie M. Kolaga, with whom he had five children: Michael J., Patrick, Carol, William and James C. Powers; and

WHEREAS, James became a Denver Police Officer in October 1946, serving as a patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and captain, before retiring as captain of the Traffic Bureau in October 1971 and going on to become the regional director of GSA Federal Protective Service from 1971 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, James' second son and Michael's grandson, Patrick J. Powers, was born March 21, 1945, graduated from North High School in 1964, served in the Navy until 1968 including in Vietnam aboard the destroyer USS Rogers, and returned to work as a fireman for Coors Porcelain until 1970; and

WHEREAS, Patrick joined the Denver Police Department in 1970 and served in Districts 1 and 4, radio room dispatch, traffic operations, as a motorcycle officer and training technician, and served in the DPD Honor Guard before receiving the Denver Police Service Cross in 1977 and retiring in March 2003 after 33 years.

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

Section 1. That Denver City Council acknowledges the outstanding 143 years of cumulative public safety service that the Powers family provided to the people of Denver.

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 Powers family and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 12, 2025

PRESIDENT