



**Proclamation No. 23-0434**

**A Proclamation Honoring Retired Denver Police Department Division Chief, Art Arita**

**WHEREAS**, retired Denver Police Division Chief, Art Arita, was born in Cheyenne Wyoming on April 18, 1932, to Jim and Hattie Arita. The family moved to Denver with the outbreak of World War 2; and

**WHEREAS**, Art attended Denver Public Schools - Whittier Elementary School and Cole Middle School, finally graduating from Manual High School in 1950; and

**WHEREAS**, after completing High School, Art joined the United States Air Force. He was sent to San Antonio, Texas for basic training and later served in Germany; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1954, Art was honorably discharged from the US Air Force and returned to Denver to work with his father in the family business; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1956, Art enrolled in the University of Northern Colorado, later that year marrying his wife Itsuko. From that marriage, the Arita family had four children, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Art's wife Itsuko was also a very well-known and talented artist. Sadly, she passed away in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in February of 1957, Art joined the Denver Police Department. Upon completion of the Police Academy, he was given temporary assignments in Denver Police Districts One, Two and Four. Eventually, Art was assigned to the Traffic Division for two years, and later served in Denver Police District three; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1963, Art was promoted to Sergeant and was selected in 1968, to start the new Special Services Unit, later known as SWAT; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1969, Art was promoted to Lieutenant, serving in that capacity again in DPD Districts One, Two and Four; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1973, Art was assigned to serve as the Director of the Denver Police Academy and later oversaw the Research and Development arm of DPD; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1983, Art was appointed by Chief Thomas Coogan as the first Asian Division Chief in the history of the Denver Police Department. Art oversaw Staff Services and later the traffic division; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, Art retired from the Denver Police Department after twenty-nine years of service; and

**WHEREAS**, during his retirement Art volunteered for several years at his grandchildren's schools in both Jefferson and Douglas Counties, later working for Frontier Airlines in their guest services department.

**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 recognizes and applauds the long career and groundbreaking service of Art Arita, and declares today, April 17, to be Art Arita Day in the City and County of Denver.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be delivered to the Arita family and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 17, 2023



\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT