

The Pueblo Chieftain

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Retired police chief to receive award



Ruben Archuleta



Alex Martinez

Latino Chamber of Commerce to honor Ruben Archuleta at its Oct. 23 luncheon.

By THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Retired Pueblo police Chief Ruben Archuleta will receive the Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Archuleta, who also is an accomplished author, sculptor and photographer, will be honored at the chamber's luncheon Oct. 23 in the Occhiato Ballroom at Colorado State University-Pueblo. The event is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m.

Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex J. Martinez will be the guest speaker.

Archuleta is the sixth person to receive the chamber's lifetime achievement award. Previous recipients include civic leader Henry Reyes, businesswoman Carla Barela, retired Municipal Judge Joe T. Ulibarri, educators Edmund Vallejo and Eva Baca and World War II hero Pete Jiminez.

Archuleta retired from the Pueblo Police Department in 1998, capping a 30-year career highlighted in 1995 when he was named the city's first Hispanic police chief. It wasn't the last he was heard from, however, as Archuleta pursued his avocations of writing, sculpting and photography upon his retirement. He has authored four books, including his insightful inquiry into the Penitente religious sect call "Land of Penitente, Land of Tradition."

A graduate of Antonito High School in the San Luis Valley, Archuleta served in the Navy. He joined the Pueblo police force in 1968 and later received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Colorado, now Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Martinez became the first Hispanic justice on the Colorado Supreme Court when Gov. Roy Romer appointed him in 1996. He previously had served 13 years in Pueblo, five years as a county court judge and eight years on the district court bench. Prior to that, he was head of the local public defender's office.

Tickets to the dinner may be obtained through the Latino Chamber by calling 542-5513.