

# President Obama asks Councilman Archuleta to serve

By **PETER FULLAM** | [Peter.fullam@inlandnewspapers.com](mailto:Peter.fullam@inlandnewspapers.com) |

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PICO RIVERA – “... calling from the White House ...”

As unbelievable as those words may sound to most people, for Pico Rivera City Councilman Bob Archuleta, the calls became routine during the year that preceded his appointment by President Barack Obama to a board that oversees West Point.

But the call he got six months ago wasn't routine.

“I almost fell out of my chair,” Archuleta said Tuesday, his final day as mayor of Pico Rivera.

“Six months ago I got a call from the White House,” said Archuleta. “I just walked out of the Oval Office,” Archuleta said the White House caller told him, “and the president personally picked your name ...”

“That was something,” said Archuleta.

The White House announced Nov. 30 that the president was going to appoint Archuleta to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy in West Point.

The board makes recommendations on the operations of the Military Academy on such things as curriculum, morale, equipment, fiscal affairs and other matters. The board is made up of four U.S. senators, five members of the House of Representatives and six presidential appointees.

After the call six months ago, Archuleta said, “then came the vetting process. That was intense.”

Despite his years of public service and police work, Archuleta was investigated by the FBI, Homeland Security and the Pentagon.

“They want to make sure you're a good guy,” he said.

“When (vetting) was complete, I got the green light, and the president made the announcement,” he said.

Archuleta has two sons who are graduates of West Point.

Brandon graduated as president of the class of 2006 and is currently a captain in the Army.

Matthew graduated as vice president of the class of 2010 and is now a first lieutenant.

Another son graduated from and played football for USC, and he has two daughters, one a Pepperdine University graduate and one a graduate of Chapman University.

He also has a daughter-in-law who graduated from West Point.

His formula for parenting:

“A lot of love, attention and involvement in their activities every single day,” he said, “and finding out early what their dreams and aspirations are and then finding the resources to fulfill those dreams.

“I think I won the children lottery,” he said.

The president’s announcement noted Archuleta’s long record of military and civil service. Since 1989, he has held the post of Los Angeles County commissioner of military veterans affairs. He has been a member of the Army Advisory Board for Military Recruitment in Los Angeles County since 1989. He was chairman of the U.S. Small Business Administration Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs from 2003 to 2004. Archuleta was a reserve police officer and reserve detective with the Montebello Police Department from 1988 to 1998. He served in the army from 1963 to 1966, and he continues to serve on the Pico Rivera City Council, to which he was elected in 2007.

Archuleta is the first Hispanic-American to be named to the board since its inception in 1972.

[peter.fullam@inlandnewspapers.com](mailto:peter.fullam@inlandnewspapers.com)

626-544-0821