

the community for the betterment of greater Golden.

Seven years ago Mike Helms had a dream to have a monthly event for residents of Golden who love the outdoors and who ride their bicycles. Mike, along with a few others who had this same dream, came up with Golden Bicycle Cruise. The excitement from the first cruise events quickly caught on. Through a partnership with the Golden Civic Foundation, in 2013 the Golden Bicycle Cruise had their most successful year with over 400 riders attending most cruises.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mike Helms for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. Your commitment has made our community a better place for all of us to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF HORSESHOE BEND

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Horseshoe Bend National Military Park on the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend took place during the War of 1812 in what is now known as Daviston, Alabama. On March 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson led American troops into a day-long battle against a faction of the Creek Indians. Although the battle was trying, General Jackson and his troops defeated the Red Sticks.

March 27, 2014, will mark the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The area where the battle took place is now known as Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. From March 27th–29th, a celebration of the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend will be held. This event aims to recreate frontier life in the year 1814 and seeks to emphasize the importance of the battle in United States history. The Alabama Tourism Department named the event one of its Top Ten Events for 2014.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the community of Daviston, Alabama, in celebrating the bicentennial of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

ADMINISTRATION IS SEEN AS RETREATING ON ENVIRONMENT IN TALKS ON PACIFIC TRADE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration is retreating from previous demands of strong international environmental protections in order to reach agreement on a sweeping Pacific trade deal that is a pillar of President Obama's strategic shift to Asia, according to documents obtained by WikiLeaks, environmentalists and people close to the contentious trade talks.

The negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would be one of the world's

biggest trade agreements, have exposed deep rifts over environmental policy between the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations. As it stands now, the documents, viewed by The New York Times, show that the disputes could undo key global environmental protections.

The environmental chapter of the trade deal has been among the most highly disputed elements of negotiations in the pact. Participants in the talks, which have dragged on for three years, had hoped to complete the deal by the end of 2013.

Environmentalists said that the draft appears to signal that the United States will retreat on a variety of environmental protections—including legally binding pollution control requirements and logging regulations and a ban on harvesting sharks' fins—to advance a trade deal that is a top priority for Mr. Obama.

Ilana Solomon, the director of the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program, said the draft omits crucial language ensuring that increased trade will not lead to further environmental destruction.

"It rolls back key standards set by Congress to ensure that the environment chapters are legally enforceable, in the same way the commercial parts of free-trade agreements are," Ms. Solomon said. The Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the World Wildlife Fund have been following the negotiations closely and are expected to release a report on Wednesday criticizing the draft.

American officials countered that they had put forward strong environmental proposals in the pact.

"It is an uphill battle, but we're pushing hard," said Michael Froman, the United States trade representative. "We have worked closely with the environmental community from the start and have made our commitment clear." Mr. Froman said he continued to pursue a robust, enforceable environmental standard that he said would be stronger than those in previous free-trade agreements.

The draft documents are dated Nov. 24 and there has been one meeting since then.

The documents consist of the environmental chapter as well as a "Report from the Chairs," which offers an unusual behind-the-scenes look into the divisive trade negotiations, until now shrouded in secrecy. The report indicates that the United States has been pushing for tough environmental provisions, particularly legally binding language that would provide for sanctions against participating countries for environmental violations. The United States is also insisting that the nations follow existing global environmental treaties.

But many of those proposals are opposed by most or all of the other Pacific Rim nations working on the deal, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Peru. Developing Asian countries, in particular, have long resisted outside efforts to enforce strong environmental controls, arguing that they could hurt their growing economies.

The report appears to indicate that the United States is losing many of those fights, and bluntly notes the rifts: "While the chair sought to accommodate all the concerns and red lines that were identified by parties regarding the issues in the text, many of the red lines for some parties were in direct opposition to the red lines expressed by other parties."

As of now, the draft environmental chapter does not require the nations to follow legally binding environmental provisions or other global environmental treaties. The text notes only, for example, that pollution controls could vary depending on a country's "domestic circumstances and capabilities."

In addition, the draft does not contain clear requirements for a ban on shark finning, which is the practice of capturing sharks and cutting off their fins—commonly used in shark-fin soup—and throwing back the sharks to die. The dish is a delicacy in many of the Asian negotiating countries. At this point the draft says that the countries "may include" bans "as appropriate" on such practices.

Earlier pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement included only appendices, which called for cooperation on environmental issues but not legally binding terms or requirements. Environmentalists derided them as "green window dressing."

But in May 2007, President George W. Bush struck an environmental deal with Democrats in the Senate and the House as he sought to move a free-trade agreement with Peru through Congress. In what became known as the May 10 Agreement, Democrats got Mr. Bush to agree that all American free-trade deals would include a chapter with environmental provisions, phrased in the same legally binding language as chapters on labor, agriculture and intellectual property. The Democrats also insisted that the chapter require nations to recognize existing global environmental treaties.

Since then, every American free-trade deal has included that strong language, although all have been between the United States and only one other country. It appears to be much tougher to negotiate environmental provisions in a 12-nation agreement.

"Bilateral negotiations are a very different thing," said Jennifer Haverkamp, the former head of the United States trade representative's environmental office. "Here, if the U.S. is the only one pushing for this, it's a real uphill battle to get others to agree if they don't like it."

But business groups say the deal may need to ease up. "There are some governments with developing economies that will need more time and leeway," said Cal Cohen, president of the Emergency Committee for American Trade, a group of about 100 executives and trade associations that lobbies the United States trade negotiator on the deal. "When you think about the evolution of labor provisions, you realize how many centuries the development of high standards took."

Since the trade talks began, lawmakers and advocacy groups have assailed the negotiators for keeping the process secret, and WikiLeaks has been among the most critical voices. The environment chapter is the third in a series of Trans-Pacific Partnership documents released by WikiLeaks. In November, the group posted the draft chapter on intellectual property. In December, the site posted documents detailing disagreements between the negotiating parties on other issues. The site is expected to release more documents as the negotiations unfold.

HONORING SGT. MARQUITA A.
GEORGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Mississippian, and pay tribute to a soldier of The United States Air Force, Sgt. Marquita A. George of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Sgt. George is the only child born to Terri and the stepdaughter of a former Navy man, Mr. Eddie Bentley, Jr. She is a native of Moorhead, MS. Sgt. George received her early education from the East Sunflower Elementary School and Gentry High School in Indianola, MS.

Sgt. George went on to pursue higher education at Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University, but put her pursuit on hold to answer a burning desire. She had to enlist in the military. She knew she could kill two birds with one stone. Sgt. George enlisted in The United States Air Force.

August 5, 2005, Sgt. George attended Basic Military Training in San Antonio, TX. After graduating basic training, she went to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS and studied at the Technical School for Information Management (TSIM) learning about computers. After graduating TSIM she was transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. At Maxwell Air Force Base she was able to put her computer education to work by becoming scheduling technician, personnel liaison, and a computer technician for student officers from Majors to Lieutenant Colonels. While at Maxwell Air Force, Sgt. George also earned her Associate's Degree in Information Management from the Community College of the Air Force.

Sgt. George has been deployed three times overseas. Her tours include Kirkuk, Iraq; Baghdad, Iraq; and Al Udeid Qatar. While on deployment in Baghdad she was decorated with the Joint Commendation Medal. This medal was for a joint special secret service mission with The United States Navy, The United States Marines, and The United States Army to locate Sadaam Hussein.

Sgt. George is currently a Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the Official Mail Center at Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, AR. On this assignment she is improving her supervision skills by supervising a great team of Airmen to operate the mail distribution center for the base; and we all know mail is highly important to soldiers many of whom are constantly deployed and mobile. The mail must follow without hiccups. She said her goal is to be the supervisor she never had to those under her authority and prepare for her next supervision assignment.

Ultimately, Sgt. George has her eye sight set on becoming a Master Sergeant to obtain the duty title as a First Sergeant. I am pleased to hear from Sgt. George that her loyalty to the United States is faithful and just so much that she decided to re-enlist for another six more years, after which she will have fourteen years dedicated to serving and protecting our country. I am thankful and grateful for the service she has given us. Thank you Sgt. George.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a rising soldier of our United States Air Force, Sgt. Marquita A. George.

MEGARA PULLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Megara Pullen for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year Award.

This award is given each year to an individual who is a member of the Chamber Ambassadors. This individual is active in promoting the Chamber in several ways including attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ground breakings, mentoring new Chamber members, attending Chamber functions, helping at the Chamber Back Yard BBQ, and the list goes on.

In addition to her job as Marketing Director for four Mahnke Auto Body locations, Megara is always available to take on the role of volunteer or leader. Her dedication to the Greater Golden Chamber makes her a real asset to the Golden community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Megara Pullen for her well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVAL AIR
STATION, PENSACOLA HEAD-
QUARTERS AS THE W.L. RICH-
ARDSON BUILDING 1500

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the life of Walter Leroy "Dick" Richardson and recognize the Naval Air Station, Pensacola Headquarters as the W.L. Richardson Building 1500.

Walter Leroy Richardson was born August 21, 1889 in Princeton Depot, Massachusetts and was later married to Ethel Wilkerson. He enlisted as a Ship's Cook (4th class) in the U.S. Navy on November 1, 1911, where he served on the USS Mississippi. Having developed a passion for photography in his youth, Richardson was able to continue his hobby of photography on the USS Mississippi while it was anchored in Pensacola. During the Navy's first few weeks of aviation-related activities in Pensacola in 1914, Richardson often captured aviation activities on film, and the Navy recognized that his photographs were a valuable tool for training and documenting aircraft testing, accidents, and other activities. Before long, the Navy designated Richardson as the Navy's first official photographer. At the start of World War I, the Navy used photography for aerial reconnaissance, and Richardson was soon commissioned and charged with organizing the first Naval School of Photography.

Richardson is now known as the "Father of Naval Photography and Naval Aerial Photog-

raphers." He served as photographer aboard the USS Birmingham during the Mexican Intervention in 1914, and he also invented the first handheld oblique camera for aerial photography. Pushing the limits of what a camera in the air could do, he even survived a crash aboard the first U.S. Navy zeppelin, the USS Shenandoah in 1922. He subsequently was honorably discharged from military service on January 1, 1926. Walter Leroy Richardson passed away on June 14, 1945 and is interred at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Washington D.C.

Walter Leroy Richardson's pioneering spirit and dedication to his craft and country make it an honor to dedicate Naval Air Station Building 1500 in Pensacola, Florida to his proud legacy. Building 1500 was built by the U.S. Army in 1939 and was later turned into a Naval School of Photography. The school was later renamed the Defense Photography School and relocated to Fort Meade, Maryland. Building 1500 was selected for renovation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2010 and then designated as headquarters for Naval Air Station, Pensacola.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I stand here today to commend Walter Leroy "Dick" Richardson, his lasting impact on the United States Armed Forces, and the recognition of his legacy through the dedication of Building 1500 as the W.L. Richardson Building 1500 on board Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
ADDRESSES UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another week has passed while Republicans in Congress continue their blockade on the renewal of federal unemployment insurance. More than 1.5 million jobless Americans remain without unemployment insurance and another 72,000 hardworking men and women will be cut off with each additional week of inaction that passes by.

House Democrats have continued their push to hold a vote on extending emergency unemployment insurance. In fact, this is the third time that I join my colleagues in making sure that we renew our promise to the American people by demanding a simple vote on a three-month extension. Every day that we fail to act means more families will be left wondering how they will put food on the table or pay for basic goods as they seek employment.

Instead of devoting so much time in Congress trying to overturn the Affordable Care Act, House Republicans should reconsider the impact that allowing unemployment insurance to expire will have on the U.S. economy and American families. It is estimated that the lapse in unemployment coverage removed \$400 million out of state economies in just a single week, while failing to extend unemployment insurance will cost the U.S. economy 240,000 jobs this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of restoring economic security for millions of Americans and their families. I am truly disappointed to