

*Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*  
Our website is [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org) - Thomas Jefferson  
We are a Charitable nonprofit organization  
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."

# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

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## Great News update- Federal Legislation Movement

The Feasibility Study step

- To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

"The designation preserves significant sites along the trail for future generations and would increase opportunities for heritage tourism in surrounding Colorado communities, as well as in America's

southwest." - US Senator Michael Bennet.

On July 31st, Senator Mark Udall held a hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks [Committee on Energy and Natural Resources]. Bennet gave significant testimony which included insightful remarks from Senator Udall.

"The historical significance of the journey to Colorado, to the West and the nation goes well beyond this brief summary. Beyond recognizing an American pioneer and the rich history of the western landscape, the establishment of the Pike Trail would provide opportunities for economic development, as the chairman mentioned, all along the route. The legislation is widely supported by local governments across five states," Bennet said. [Full transcript below] The hearing was chaired by the bill's cosponsor, Colorado US Senator Mark Udall.

Now that the Senate has heard testimony on the bill, it has to be scheduled again in the committee for Mark-up : The process by which congressional **committees** and subcommittees debate, amend, and rewrite proposed legislation. Bennet's DC staff says that it would be easier to get it scheduled to be before the committee again, if there were more sponsors.

Here is where we come in. [follows]

## • Our task - Invite US Senators to Co-sponsor S.524

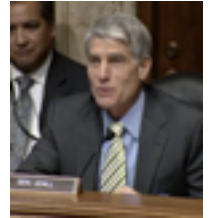
The Association is working to invite all US Senators to co-sponsor the Feasibility Study legislation in the Senate. The Association has sent letters to all US Senators requesting their consideration to co-sponsor S.524 with Senators Bennet and Udall. We are also contacting DC staffers directly in 15 states. Pike has ties with New York, New Jersey, the upper Mississippi River states of IL, IA, WS & MN as well as MO, KS, NE, [CO], NM, TX and LA.

Your officers, board, and regional and state coordinators **are writing** Senator request personal letters **for their friends and relatives** living outside of Colorado. We are sending the letters to their friends and relatives for signatures with a stamped addressed envelope. All they have to do is sign and mail them.

**We would like you to join us. We MUST get Co-sponsors in the next two months. After 5 years Pike the best chance yet.**

**Write the letters for their 2 Senators requesting co-sponsorship of S.524, send them to your friends residing in states outside Colorado with a stamped addressed envelope. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS SIGN IT, PLACE IT IN THE ENVELOPE, AND MAIL IT. I'm writing four - 2 for the husband and 2 for the wife. Senate DC office addresses are easily Googled by typing "US Senate address." We include wording below for you to use- "cut and paste".**

*Gazette and the Flume* - The Colorado news media- Colorado Springs Gazette and the Park County Republican & Fairplay Flume ran articles applauding the advancement of the Pike bill. The Flume referred to Senator Bennet's testimony, ran a map of Pike's route in Colorado, and printed our request that "all who are in favor of the passage of the feasibility study contact congressional representatives from the U.S. House to sponsor a House Companion bill, especially Doug Lamborn (R- Colorado Springs), Scott Tipton (R-Cortez) and Cory Gardner (R-Yuma).



## *Gaining a House Companion bill*

The Association is working to establish a House Companion bill, which will be necessary for the Feasibility legislation to pass Congress. We will also need an effort to gain co-sponsors for the House bill.

### *• Senator Bennet on the Pike Southwest Expedition - July 31, 2013 Hearing transcript*

Thank you Chairman Udall. This is a great honor to be before you and also before our great colleague from Hawaii Senator Schatz who provided such an extraordinary leadership when it comes to National Parks since he's been here. But calling you mister chairman gives me special satisfaction said thanks for having me today. Thanks for holding this hearing allowing me to testify for a few minutes in support of S.524, the Pike National Historic Trail Study Act of 2013. Mr. Chairman I want to extend special thanks to your support of this bill as an original cosponsor. The bill is a simple one, less than a page long. The legislation would create a feasibility study regarding the establishment of the Zebulon Pike National Historic Trail.

The trail would recognize Pike's journey into the west, starting in Missouri in 1806, crossing acreage in seven modern day States and Mexico until ending in 1807 in Louisiana. Should the Park Service deem the route worthy of the addition to the system, a separate act of Congress would be needed to formally designate the trail. I'm here today just to express support for the Study legislation and briefly describe why this trail is significant.

More than thirteen years after this country's independence, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike joined the Army when he was 20 years old and it was in July of 1806 that the Army tasked him with exploring the southwestern border of the land recently acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The expedition started in Missouri, moved across Kansas, then into the southeastern part of our home state of Colorado. They trudged up the Arkansas River Valley and was in November of 1806 that Pike first saw the peak that would someday bear his name. And while, as the Chairman said, he tried, the lieutenant never actually set foot on the summit of Pikes Peak. the eastern most 14 thousand-foot mountain in the United States and 1 of over 50 mountains in Colorado above that height, the most in the nation by far. The last person I need to tell about that is the Chairman of this Committee, as he has climbed every single one.

Following the detour to Pikes Peak, the expedition continued on. They ate a Christmas dinner of buffalo meat near the modern day city of Salida and then they continued south over the Sangre de Cristo mountains and around what is now the Great Sand Dunes National Park until they hit the Rio Grande River. They established a small fort now known as Pike Stockade south of present-day Alamosa and it was there in February 2007 that Spanish soldiers captured Pike and his expedition and marched them south to Santa Fe and then into the Chihuahua region of New Mexico. While they were treated fairly by the Spanish, it wasn't until June that Pike and most of his men were returned to US soil in Louisiana, nearly a thousand miles from where they were captured.

Mr. Chairman, Lieutenant Pike's expedition was the first American led journey to the southwest. The historical significance to the journey to Colorado, to the west, and to this nation goes well beyond this brief summary. In recognizing of this American pioneer in the rich history of the western landscape, the establishment of the Pike trail would provide for economic development, as the Chairman mentioned, all along the route. The legislation is widely supported by local governments across five states.

I have letters of support for the bill from 22 county commissioners including sixteen counties in Colorado, and with your permission I'd like to enter those letters into the hearing room.

"Without objection." {Chairman Mark Udall} Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are local leaders both Democrats and Republicans seeking to diversify the economy's of our rural economies. I hope the committee will recognize there worthy goals, see fit to promptly and favorably move this bill forward in the process.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify at this session.

"Thanks, Senator Bennet. When we get this project completed, we will continue to learn about him and appreciate the fascinating stories of Pike's travels. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I'm particularly intrigued with one of the theories which is that Pike allowed himself to be captured so that he could both take advantage of Mexico's resources and learn more about what the country south of us was doing. There are other historians that he was not fully aware of the danger that he was in but whatever the case may be, it's a fascinating part of the history of our part of the country and I thank you for your authorship." {Chairman Mark Udall} I thank you for allowing this hearing to move forward. "Thank you, Senator Bennet."

{Colorado US Senators Bennet and Udall are co-sponsors.}

**General Letter #1-**

Suggested for the non-Pike states [Pike states are MO,KS,NE,NM,LA and TX (CO)]

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

Please allow this letter to serve as an invitation to support Senator Bennet's call for a feasibility study for the Zebulon Pike National Historic Trail (S.524). We are requesting that you consider co-sponsoring such legislation.

Zebulon Pike is perhaps best known for his famous exploration of the Louisiana Purchase in the west, and an 1812 war hero in the east. A national historic trail would help to illuminate the accomplishments of Pike in all of the states in our nation.

Not only would a national trail benefit us economically and educationally, this recognition would highlight some of the historical accomplishments of Zebulon Pike's career. From the explorations of the Mississippi River in Minnesota, to the birth of the Santa Fe Trail in the Great Southwest, to the Battle of York on Lake Ontario, there is a lot to be discovered.

There is also another reason that the military exploration of the Louisiana Purchase should be commemorated by a national trail: the fact that Pike's men were never officially recognized or given a stipend or reward of any kind for serving and sacrificing so much for their country. This is an old veterans issue. We can right that wrong with such a designation of a national historic trail and recognition of Zebulon Pike's men.

Senator Bennet's legislation is a non-political and positive appeal to secure our nation's history. It would be overseen and funded as part of the National Park Service. We believe that a feasibility study for this trail is a patriotic issue.

Please help us do the right thing by offering to co-sponsor this historic legislation!



Sincerely,  
Your contact information

**State specific phrases which could be included to specific Senators-**

**New York-** Brigadier General Pike, after securing York, Canada (now Toronto), was fatally wounded after the battle and died on April 27, 1813 while being transported to Sackets Harbor, New York. He is buried in Sackets Harbor. National recognition of the Pike National Historic Trail would bring to New York educational and economic benefits through further interpretation and preservation efforts.

**New Jersey-** Pike was born near Lambertton, New Jersey (now called Lamington) on January 5, 1779, the son of Zebulon Pike, who served with Washington during the Revolutionary War. Pike grew up at outposts on the US frontier at the time. In 1794 (at 15) he joined his father's regiment and earned a first lieutenantcy in 1799. National recognition of the Pike National Historic Trail would bring to New Jersey educational and economic benefits through further interpretation and preservation efforts.

**Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota-** America's exploration of the eastern side of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase- Pike was ordered in 1804-5 to find the source of the Mississippi River. He and his men located the headwaters, mapping the northern territory as they went, established American control and purchased land from the Lakota Sioux which is now Minneapolis-St. Paul.

This effort in the states of **Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota** will be recognized through expanded interpretation and preservation.

**General Letter #2-**

Suggested for the non-Pike states [Pike states are MO,KS,NE,NM,LA and TX (CO)]

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

I request that you co-sponsor the bill S.524: To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.

S.524 is currently co-sponsored by Colorado US Senators Bennet and Udall. The bill provides for a Feasibility Study for the Pike National Historic Trail, one of the steps in designation as a National Historic Trail. We are told that funding for the study would come out of the Park Service budget.

I believe that there are large economic (through tourism), educational, recreational, historic preservation and historic interpretations advantages for designation. This is echoed over and over in letters of support from County Commissions, mayors, historians, and preservation groups. This bill has bipartisan support.

Nationally, I believe a greater understanding of Pike as an early American explorer would be facilitated.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men not only explored America's southwest in 1806-7, they also found the headwaters of the Mississippi River in 1805-6 as part of our nation's effort to explore, map and establish control the land acquired by the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. He is a nationally significant figure dying in Canada as a Brigadier General in the War of 1812.

From a regional and national standpoint, we encourage your co-sponsorship for educational as well as tourism reasons.

Sincerely,  
Your contact information

**Pike-state Letter #3- Specific to "Pike states"**

Suggested for the Pike states MO, KS, NE, NM, LA and TX.

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

I request that you co-sponsor S.524: To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.

S.524 provides for a Feasibility Study for the Pike National Historic Trail. Funding for the study would be a part of the Park Service budget. (Separate legislation is required for designation is required based on the recommendations of the Study.)

Bipartisan support exists from County Commissions, mayors, historians, and preservation groups in our state. County Commission letters were entered in the record by Senator Bennet on July 31, 2013.

I believe that there are large economic (through tourism), educational, recreational, historic preservation and historic interpretations advantages for our state in the eventual designation.

I believe a greater understanding of Pike as an early American explorer would be facilitated nationally.

As part of our nation's effort to explore, map and establish control the land acquired by the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men not only explored America's southwest in 1806-7, they also found the headwaters of the Mississippi River in 1805-6.

He is a nationally significant figure dying in 1813 as a Brigadier General in the War of 1812.

{Add state specific information here from below.}

From a regional and national standpoint, we encourage your co-sponsorship for educational, preservation as well as tourism reasons.

Sincerely,

Your contact information

Some state specific information which could be included to specific Senators-

**Missouri** - Pike is a significant person in Missouri history. Pike left Fort Bellefontaine on July 14, 1806 and traveled up the Missouri River. He mapped a large part of the Osage River from Jefferson City to the Kansas border. He returned 51 Osage to their villages near Butler.

He and his men traveled in Missouri from July 14 to September 3, 1806. We wish to further preserve and interpret the 630 miles traveled and 52 days Pike contributed to Missouri heritage.

**Kansas**- Pike is a significant person in Kansas history. He was the first American official to bring peace among the Pawnee, Osage and Sac. He mapped a large part of Kansas from today's Bourbon and Linn counties, the Cottonwood River, Bridgeport, Salina, Minneapolis, Jewell, to the Pawnee village on the Republican River in Nebraska, then to Great Bend and up the Arkansas.

He and his men were in Kansas from September 3 to 24, 1806 and October 7 to November 11, 1806. We wish to further preserve and interpret the 648 miles traveled and 56 days Pike contributed to Kansas heritage.

**Nebraska**- Pike is a significant person in Nebraska history because he was the first American military officer to gather information and map southern central Nebraska. He brought peace regionally between the Pawnee, Osage and Sac, and established American ownership of the Great Plains.

He and his men remained in Nebraska from September 24 to October 7, 1806. We wish to further preserve and interpret the 13 days Pike contributed to Nebraska heritage and bring tourists to Red Cloud and Guide Rock.

**New Mexico**- The Pike National Historic Trail would be contiguous with the Old Spanish National Historic Trail from the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado to north of Santa Fe, and continuing on the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro into Mexico. Because Pike was allowed to record observations, make maps and collect information from the citizens of New Spain, one can suggest that Pike's information was developed and no doubt was used in the Mexican-American War.

Designation of the Pike National Historic Trail would bring further economic development for the counties along the Rio Grande on modern highways US 285 and I-25.

**Texas**- Pike was the first American official in Spanish Texas. He made observations, and talked with citizens while in Texas and specifically in San Antonio from June 7 to 12, 1807. One can suggest that Pike's information was developed and no doubt was used in the Texas Revolution and revenge for Santa Anna's cruelty against the Alamo Mission in San Antonio.

Pike was brought on today's El Camino Real de los Tejas. Designation of the Pike National Historic Trail would bring further economic development for the counties along the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail on modern highways Texas 21 (along with Texas OSR) and a portion of Louisiana 6. The Pike National Historic Trail would be contiguous with the El Camino Real de los Tejas.

**Louisiana-** Pike ended his historic 1806 Southwestern Expedition in Natchitoches, Louisiana on July 1, 1806 entering your state on June 28. He remained in Natchitoches working on completing and reconstructing field notes and maps with his men for two to three weeks. He had just been the first American official to be in Spanish Texas and was brought on today's El Camino Real de los Tejas. Surely his information and maps were developed and used in the Texas Revolution and revenge for Santa Anna's cruelty against the Alamo Mission in San Antonio.

We wish to further preserve and interpret the 18+ days Pike contributed to that part of your heritage and bring tourists to western Louisiana.

More specific phrases which could be included

-Early in the development of America- towns, townships, and counties recognized Pike's efforts and used Pike's name. He is the namesake of Pike County, Pennsylvania [1814], Ohio [1815], Mississippi [1815], Indiana [1816], Missouri [1818], Georgia [1822], and Illinois. Early on, Pike was honored with town names, location names, the 14,110 foot Pikes Peak, and the Pike National Forest.

-The route of the Pike 1806-7 Expedition had a far reaching effect on the fulfillment of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny.

-The Pike Expedition of 1806-7 more than satisfies the three qualifications of the National Trails system Act (P.L. 90-543) Section 5 (b) (11).

-The presence of a tourist and recreation potential is related to historic appreciation, interpretation, and preservation. Historic sites associated with the trail are in abundance, worthy of pedagogical, scholarly study, and preservation.

-We recognize the broader implications of Pike's expeditions and choose to support the Pike National Historic Trail.

-Pike was the father of the Santa Fe Trail and, in essence, encouraged the commercial interests to build a route from Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, through his expedition reports.

Pike's monumental accomplishments.

-Pike was the first American sent to explore the eastern and southwestern boundaries of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

-Pike discovered the headwaters of the Mississippi, South Platte, and Arkansas Rivers.

- Pike asserted American control and national honor, both with British fur traders in the north and with the Pawnee on the Plains of Nebraska and Kansas. (He also returned captured Osage to their homeland in Missouri.)

- He provided revelations concerning Spanish settlements, military force strength and placement, commerce, geopolitical information in the American southwest AND MEXICO.

- His comments spurred the establishment of the Santa Fe Trail.

- He provided the basis of knowledge for the formation of numbers of southwestern states.

- Brig. Gen. Zebulon Pike was the only commander of two to completely win a battle in the War of 1812, in Canada.

**Let us get on with giving due credit!**

## Thank you so much for helping!

*•Membership* - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association!

*Please consider joining us with your membership. The membership form is on our website or contact us at 303/816-7424.*

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