

KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

The quiet dignity of a community man

He never sought out the spotlight, yet he helped shape Keizer into what it is today. John Carpenter Jenkins passed away on Easter Sunday at the age of 94.

A Nebraska native, Jenkins served his country in the Signal Company. He rose to the rank of corporal, providing, in part, radio communication between Army aircraft and their base on Guam.

Taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, Jenkins enrolled in the University of Nebraska and took engineering courses. Engineering was to become his life-long career.

John and his wife Gina moved to Keizer in 1956 and have lived in the same house since. The couple had three children and five grandchildren.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Keizer for more than 40 years, Jenkins served as the unofficial historian of the city's most influential group. A supporter of all kids, he was an important conduit between the hundreds of exchange students from around the world that called Keizer home for a

year. Jenkins kept the club informed of the exchange students when they returned home and kept those students informed of what was happening in their 'adopted' city.

Locally he served as cubmaster of the Cub Scout Pack 141, a sturdy, outgoing mentor to years of Keizer boys.

In early 1995, Jenkins was surprised by the Chamber of Commerce and named as Keizer's First Citizen, an honor bestowed on those who volunteer in the community. He was instrumental in the effort to save the original Keizer School building that now serves as the Keizer Cultural Center on the Keizer Civic Center campus.

A volunteer all of his life—due to the influence of his father—Jenkins made Keizer a better place. He worked mostly behind the scenes; he knew that's where the real work was done.

He was a friend to all, especially the kids from near and far. —LAZ

our opinion

The good things about America

By MICHAEL F. VALDEZ

I do not live in a blue or red state, but the United States of America.

Who could believe the highest office in our United States, the presidency, regardless of which party holds that position, can be mocked, lied about and tried for impeachment by our own Congress, supported by some federal courts.

In the past, their negative remarks were kept to themselves. I have always stated, "A country that falls, falls from within." Sadly, we are approaching those days at a very fast pace. The current president is being held back by irresponsible people of our country, why? What have our Senators and Congressman done for the

state of Oregon? Nothing. Oregon is in debt, the city of Salem is in debt. As of 2016, Oregon was ranked fourth in divorces in the United States. We are ranked in the lower 10 percent as far as poverty is concerned. Now tell me what our local government has done for us? Yet we continue to send the same deadbeats back to Washington, D.C. and elect the same deadbeats here in our state government. All our elected officials say is, "Resist, resist." Resist, what? Oregon loses in the end. No, Governor Brown, it is not your state, it belongs to the citizens of Oregon. Judge Vance Day has been found guilty already? How?

Our military is the strongest in the world, being held back by know-it-alls in Washington, D.C. who have never served in the armed forces or seen a battle. The ones, who have served, claim to be the Jehovah's in the righteousness and wisdom. They let Michael Moore's movies be fed to our college students, showing the Unites States as the aggressors.

I am tired and weary of being lectured by foreign countries who have never won a battle yet they continue to ask for millions of U.S. dollars in aid and complain if they don't receive enough. I say stop our support and get the United Nations out of the United States. Put the U.N in Germany or France and let them carry the burden.

They hate us and always vote against us as well. I am tired of the breast beaters, critics of America at home and abroad who set impossible yardsticks for the United States, but never apply the same standards for other countries.

We never lost the Vietnam War, the Iraq or Afghanistan wars, not the soldiers on the ground, but the Americans who cried for peace were the losers of that war. Whining parents

and a weak Congress lost their backbone. This trust in American sentimentality is reinforced every time the terrorist read our editorials, watch our biased television stations or listen to a debate between all Americans alike. This encourages them to set bombs and take pot shots

at our troops. In this case, the American warrior really is turned in as the victim. Right now back east, they are fighting over statues dated back to the Civil War era. How many people are aware that China owns more than 2 percent of Oregon land? Nobody knows how much more for sure, but every state in the nation is in the same situation—China owns land in every state of the United States.

As I previously stated, every country that falls always falls from within. I'm so glad to be an American after 37 and a half years of military service, of which three of those years were in combat as an infantry officer in Vietnam. I stand ready to defend our way of life. If you cannot meet our standards, then leave and go live in some other country. I'm tired of hearing about all of the bad things of America. Let's start today talking and supporting all the good things we stand for. But, it is too late; the final state of it is long but deteriorating life was brought about when Congress and the federal courts succumbed to the power of the internal struggle that started years ago. It is expected with the passing of the Republic, an alternative nation we will become.

Help us God, let us rest in peace (Michael F. Valdez lives in Keizer. He retired from the infantry with the rank of Colonel.)

guest opinion



Trumpism is not a normal political moment

By MICHAEL GERSON

Is it time for anti-Trump conservatives to recognize that they have lost the political and policy battle within the GOP and to accommodate themselves as best they can to an uncomfortable reality?

This is the argument of the Ethics and Public Policy Center's Henry Olsen, one of the most thoughtful political analysts on the right. On issues such as trade, immigration, and the Muslim travel ban, he argues, Republican critics of Donald Trump are dramatically "out of step with conservatives." And the possible options are limited. A primary challenge to Trump is "doomed to failure." The creation of a third party is a pipe dream, since "there simply aren't enough dissatisfied conservatives."

This leaves anti-Trump conservatives, in Olsen's view, with one viable choice—to make peace with a Trump-dominated movement. "If they are willing to work with other conservative-movement types on immigration and trade to reach common ground," he contends, "they might find other longtime conservatives are willing to work with them." Olsen's historical model is conservative "fusionism"—a theory associated with conservative thinker Frank Meyer that asserted common political and intellectual ground between social conservatives and libertarians in the middle of the last century.

Olsen's hope for a return to normalcy within the conservative movement—in which even deep disagreements did not lead to complete rupture—is understandable. But his real contribution is probably not what he intended. Olsen sees

this as an important but normal political moment, in which the policy views of populists and conservative intellectuals need to be reconciled on issues such as trade and immigration. An intellectual dialectic within the Republican coalition is straining

to produce a new, more pro-worker synthesis—which Olsen himself has long advocated. But this begs the question: Is this a normal political moment?

If Trump were merely proposing a border wall and the more aggressive employment of tariffs, we would be engaged in a debate, not facing a schism. Both Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush played the tariff chess game. As a Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney endorsed the massive "self-deportation" of undocumented workers without the rise of a #NeverRomney movement.

But it is blind, even obtuse, to place Trumpism in the same category. Trump's policy proposals—the details of which Trump himself seems unconcerned and uninformed about—are symbolic expressions of a certain approach to politics. The stated purpose of Trump's border wall is to keep out a contagion of Mexican rapists and murderers. His argument is not taken from Heritage Foundation policy papers. He makes it by quoting the racist poem "The Snake," which compares migrants to dangerous vermin. Trump proposes to ban migration from some Muslim-majority countries because Muslim refugees, as he sees it, are a Trojan horse threat of terrorism. Trump's policy ideas are incidental to his message of dehumanization.

So how do we split the political difference on this one? Shall we talk about Mexican migrants as rapists

on every other day? Shall we provide rhetorical cover for alt-right bigots only on special occasions, such as after a racist protest and murder?

The point applies in other areas. While some Republicans have criticized media bias, Trump has attempted to systematically delegitimize all critical information as "fake news" and referred to the media as "the enemy of the people." While other politicians have pushed back against investigations, Trump has attempted to discredit federal law enforcement as part of a "deep state" plot against him.

We have seen similar damage in the realm of values and norms. In the cultivation of anger and tribalism. In the use of language to inflame and demean. In the destruction of a common factual basis for politics, making policy compromise of the kind Olsen favors impossible.

What would fusion with this type of politics look like? Trump defines loyalty to conservatism as contempt for many of our neighbors. One might as well have proposed a fusion between popular sovereignty and Abraham Lincoln's conception of inherent human rights. They were not a dialectic requiring a synthesis. They were alternatives demanding a choice.

Which raises a fourth option: For elected leaders to remind Americans who they are and affirm our common bonds. For conservative policy experts to define an agenda of working-class uplift, not an agenda of white resentment—which will consign Republicans to moral squalor and (eventually) to electoral irrelevance. For principled conservatives to hear the call of moral duty and stand up for their beliefs until this madness passes. As it will.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

the opinion of others

gene h. mcintyre

The president we have

Recall is fading. Nevertheless, memory reminds us that President Donald Trump led us to believe that as president he would be looking after all Americans. So far, he's worked mainly on behalf of opposites to his oft-repeated promises during the campaign as he now leads and directs his cabinet to dismantle and otherwise do away with the federal regulations that were hard-fought into existence over many decades and thereby have protected American consumers everywhere and on-the-job workers through both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Sally Greenberg, executive director of the National Consumers League is one national leader who takes issue with Trump's promises while he ran for office and what he and his immediate subordinates have been up to during the past 15 months. She's said, "The consumer protections that were put in place over the past two generations are being destroyed brick by brick under the Trump administration." That may sound as an exaggeration but, should one read far and wide, he will find that same conclusion has been reached by every consumer advocate in the nation.

Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, has said this administration is the most anti- and de-regulatory in American history. Columnist

David Lazarus of the *Los Angeles Times* has verified Weissman's comments and further informs his readers that, after interviewing Weissman himself, that Trump's insistence that fewer rules means more jobs and a more vibrant economy is not true. What has been found by looking into this matter on the effects of regulations is that our nation is better off when there are rules that keep tabs on and exert safety, health and economic measures to control corporations that too often have gone wild in their pursuit of profits and beyond, that is, unbridled greed.

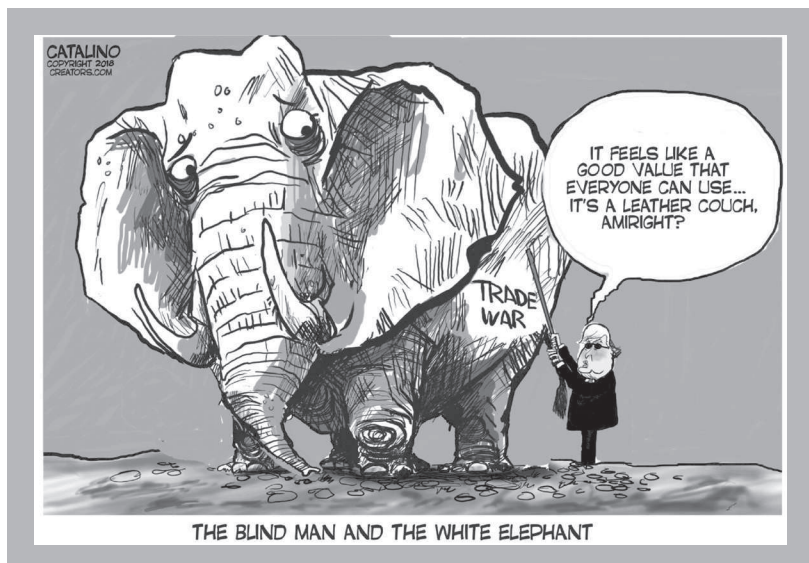
What facts surface after a year of the Trump administration? Even half way through the Trump administration's first year, the Office of Management and Budget reported doing away with or ending for any form of amendment, 860 regulations having to do with consumer and worker safeguards and environmental protections. What we're talking about in this matter include looser emission standards for fossil fuels, workplace safety regulations now gone that protect against exposure to hazardous chemicals, and, among so many others, elimination of safe drinking water guarantees.

Recently, Trump installed his super conservative budget director, Mick Mulvaney, as interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bu-

reau. The CFPB was created to deal with the reckless corporate behavior that resulted in the close-call collapse of the country's financial-services and brought on the worst recession in U.S. history. He, like Energy Secretary Rick Perry, who wants to terminate his department, Ryan Zinke, who seeks to turn all federal lands and waters over to oil drilling and private development, and Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, are determined to bring an end to most of which the average American has treasured and valued for 120 years. Incidentally, regarding Mulvaney and the CFPB, he's seen to it that all U.S. credit cards, in lengthy changes to terms and conditions, no longer afford the consumer any protections in the use of his credit cards.

We've learned more of late as GOP members of Congress have gone to work at "protecting" Americans from "government interference with competitive, innovative markets." Just keep in mind, though, that, in a nation without any government interference, your car may stall on the freeway due to contaminated gas, access to your favorite beach or national park may be prevented because oil drillers have it barricaded off, your waters become non-potable because filtration's gone, your food and meat have adulterating materials in them because it has not been inspected and the air you breathe is cancer-causing most everywhere while deadly in work environments.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)



Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: www.keizertimes.com • email: kt@keizertimes.com

Lyndon A. Zaitz, Editor & Publisher

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One year:
\$25 in Marion County,
\$33 outside Marion County,
\$45 outside Oregon

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Publication No: USPS 679-430

Periodical postage paid at
Salem, Oregon