

## Other Viewpoints

# Politicians can't control gas prices

Gasoline prices ... have been on a roller coaster ride. The price of gas was close to \$4 a gallon a few weeks ago, then it dropped to \$3.45 a gallon and now is trending a bit upward.

Of all the misleading factoids tossed around by candidates this presidential election season, one of the worst is the one that presidents can control the price of gasoline. Essentially, no president can do much about gas prices in the short run.

Gas nationwide was, indeed, about \$1.86 when President Obama took office Jan. 20, 2009, but only because gas prices had plummeted with the global economic crash. A mere eight weeks earlier, prices had topped \$4 a gallon – higher than today. Gas prices climbed steadily through all eight years of the Bush administration.

Oil is traded on a world market, whether it's drawn from a well in Saudi Arabia or off the coast of Alaska, making it difficult for any White House to control prices. A new well in America can take a decade or longer to get up and running, and even then, the oil can be sold worldwide.

America's dream of "energy independence" is sure to remain just that, a dream, without further development of renewable home-produced energy such as solar and wind.

Truth is, presidents deserve little credit or blame, given that oil-field yields reflect corporate and government decisions made years earlier.

Yet, too many Americans, misled by folks running for office, continue to believe that the incumbent in the White House, whoever he may be, is directly responsible for the current price of gas at the pump.

## Where to write, call

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774  
roberts.senate.gov/public/

**U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

**U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

**State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

**State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7659 rick.billinger@house.ks.gov

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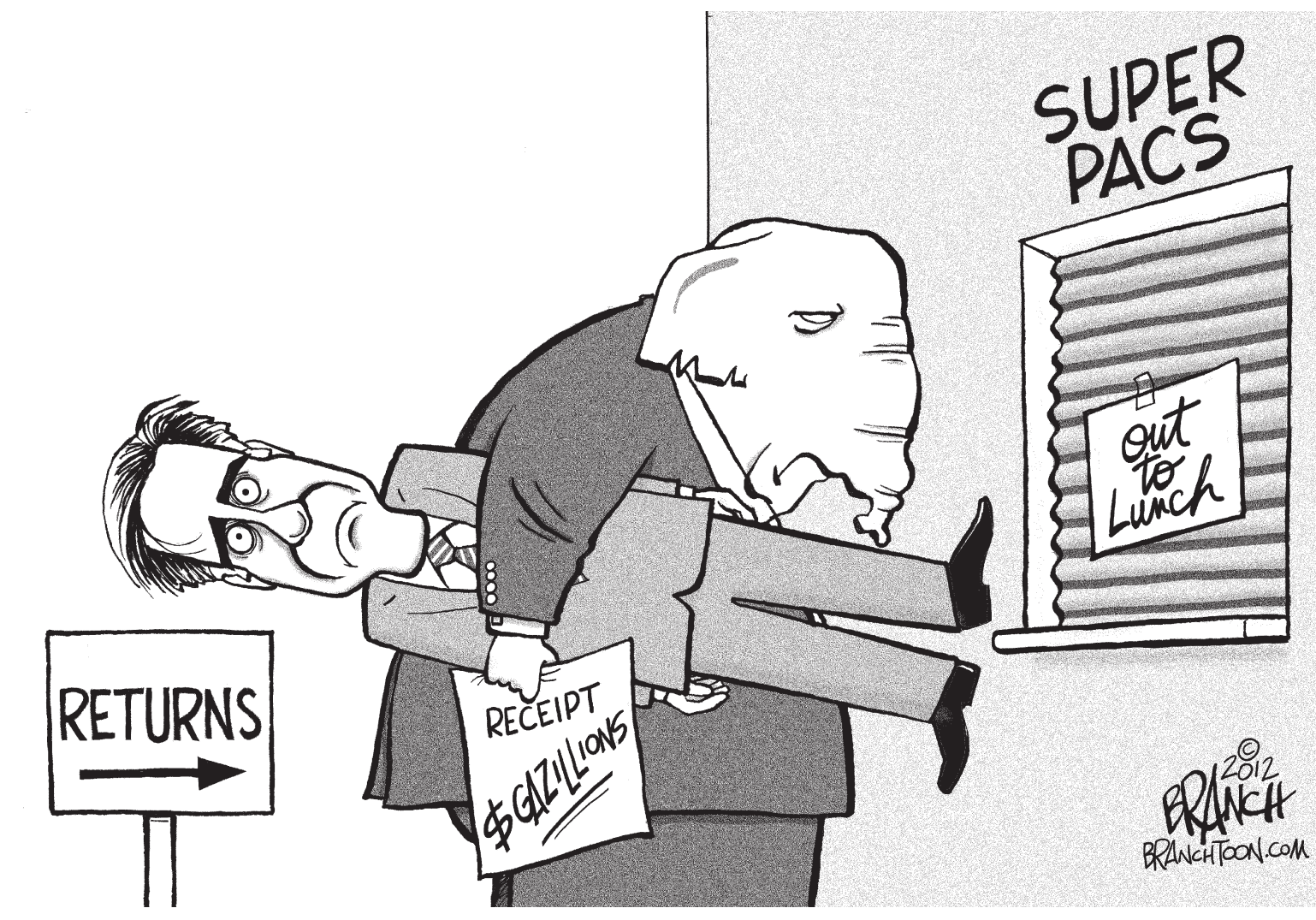
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# We need to show real gratitude

The service provided to our nation by our veterans can never be fully repaid, but Americans like me who are indebted to them will never cease trying to show the respect and gratitude of a thankful nation.

First and foremost, this includes fulfilling the promises made to men and women who have served our nation in uniform during wartime. To break our commitments is not only going against our word – and what are you without your word? – but is also to set a bad precedent for the next generation. We rely on an all-volunteer force, which means we have to incentivize enlistment. If Washington breaks promises now, then what does that signal to the young men and women thinking about joining the military?

Chief among my responsibilities as a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee is oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the 22 months I have been in Congress, I have heard horror story after horror story about the conditions our veterans face while pursuing the health care and resources they are due. Obviously, poor conditions at our hospitals are an affront to our veterans, but also to the nation's taxpayers. We are working



**U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**  
● Capitol Notes

hard to fix that.

Second, part of showing gratitude and respect to our veterans and our currently active or reserve duty troops means not denying them the liberties and freedoms they have fought to defend.

When I learned this year that the Army's Office of the Chief of Chaplains censored the reading of a letter from Timothy Broglio, Archbishop of Military Services, regarding the Department of Health and Human Services mandate that religious employers pay for and provide abortion drugs and birth control in their health care plans, I was outraged.

Catholics across the country heard a letter from their own bishop with the call-to-action: "We cannot – we will not – comply with this unjust law." But Catholics in the military did

not get to hear this because of this shocking censorship.

Non-Catholics, those not in the military, and even those who support the use of abortion drugs and contraception, should take offense at this very obvious abrogation and stifling of First Amendment rights.

Third, the respect and gratitude of a thankful nation can honor Veterans by keeping the American Dream alive. The American Dream is defined as making sure the next generation is always better off than this one. With that in mind, we owe it to the next generation to not leave them \$16 trillion (and growing) in debt. We owe it to the next generation to keep America an attractive place to start a business. We owe it to the next generation to protect the right to pursue prosperity. And, ultimately, we owe it to the next generation to protect their freedoms and liberties.

It's time to get back to the America that our veterans fought to defend.

*Congressman Tim Huelskamp, a Fowler Republican, represents the 1st District of Kansas. He serves on the House Agriculture, Budget, and Veterans' Affairs committees.*

# Reader thinks president divisive

To the Editor:

"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people.... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." Thomas Jefferson.

With Veterans Day here, I want to say thanks to all our veterans. I also want to thank our law enforcement officers and firefighters. Thank you for defending our freedoms and protecting us daily.

Shortly before Veterans Day is election day. It is one of our duties as an American citizen to go to the polling booth and make our choice for president, Congress, Senate and state and local representatives.

"During times of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." George Orwell, in his book "1984."

Concerning the presidential race: Would you rather have someone in office that does not care about anything or a business man with an excellent track record who has the knowledge and the cajones to balance a budget?

Do you want someone who will honor his constitutional oath of office or someone who skirts the Constitution or breaks the law anytime he chooses by executive order?

Do you want to pay less in taxes and have more jobs or continue down the road of 8 percent unemployment, few jobs and 47-48 million on welfare and unemployment?

"The only people who don't want to disclose the truth are people with something to hide." Barack H. Obama.

What is Obama hiding about Benghazi, Libya? Why wasn't help sent right away? Four Americans died in the consulate attack.

This whole administration rots from the head on down. It stinks of cover-up, as does Fast and Furious and the ensuing denial and lies. Why has a paper birth certificate not been released? Or college transcripts or applications? Why numerous Social Security numbers? Why several names? Why millions of dollars paid to not release this information? Exactly what is Mr. Obama hiding?



## Free Press Letter Drop

● Our readers sound off

"Never let a good crisis go to waste!" One of the rules for radicals by activist Saul Alinsky.

Need examples of some 'good crises'? Hurricane Sandy and the devastation along the East Coast. Benghazi. Fast and Furious. Rampant voter fraud.

In this vein, I wrote the following:  
Dear President Obama,

I just wanted to let you know that I am looking forward to voting on Nov. 6. I also wanted to let you know that during your time in office, I had hoped you would hold true to your pledge of yours being the most transparent administration ever. I have to say, you have failed magnificently at that and have taken America back to the early 20th century with your policies and rhetoric.

Our country is now more radically divided than it was even in the '60s. Sir, I blame you and your Democratic party. America is now, thanks to you, more divided by race, income, gender, age, ethnicity, job, location, orientation, education, even political party affiliation than ever before! Your administration is one of the most, if not the most, corrupt that I can remember!

I know you will twist facts to suit you, no matter what the topic might be. I know that you've taken the side of our enemies in the Middle East. To anyone born and raised an American, you sir are the epitome of a treasonous UN-American!

Jari Skiles, Colby

PS: Two thumbs up to Mel Fry's letter to the editor on Thursday, Nov. 1.

# Senator questions truth on Benghazi

To the Editor:

Many Kansans are outraged with the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. They believe the president has not been straight with them and is now avoiding the issue.

Many, especially veterans and those in the military, have expressed the fear that the sacred bond of never leaving a comrade in distress or danger may be worthless as of the date of this disgrace.

As the most senior U.S. Marine in Congress, I could not agree more. We cannot allow this to fester and infect the bond of taking care of our own.

I wrote the president an open letter urging him to set the record straight. The letter can be viewed on my website at roberts.senate.gov.

Until the president, as commander in chief, informs Americans of what happened and why, that bond, which has existed as long as the United States of America has fielded armies, is breaking. We must know why American assets nearby were not used to save American lives.

This request for the president to set the record straight and restore the bond of "sacrifice for each other" is made with the deepest sincerity. The future morale and effectiveness of our military services may be at stake, and the consequences of this broken bond will be a burden for whomever is in the White House this coming year.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, Dodge City

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## Mallard Fillmore

● Bruce Tinsley

