

Trump pardons Bannon, but not himself or his children

By Jonathan Lemire, Eric Tucker and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump pardoned former chief strategist Steve Bannon in the final hours of his White House term as part of a flurry of clemency action that benefited more than 140 people, including rap performers, ex-members of Congress and other allies of him and his family.

The last-minute clemency, announced after midnight on Wednesday, follows separate waves of pardons over the past month for Trump associates convicted in the FBI's Russia investigation as well as for the father of his son-in-law.

Taken together, the actions underscore the president's willingness, all the way through his four years in the White House, to flex his constitutional powers in ways that defy convention and explicitly aid his friends and supporters.

Trump did not pardon himself, despite speculation that he would, in the face of potential federal investigations. He had previously asserted that he had the authority to do so. He also did not pardon his children or his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

The final list was full of more conventional candidates whose cases had



Draw Angerer/Getty Images-TNS

President Donald Trump turns to reporters as he exits the White House on Jan. 12, 2021.

been championed by criminal justice activists. One man who has spent nearly 24 years in prison on drug and weapons charges but had shown exemplary behavior behind bars had his sentence commuted. So did a former Marine sentenced in 2000 in connection with a cocaine conviction.

Even so, the names of prominent Trump allies nonetheless stood out.

One pardon recipient was Elliott Broidy, a prominent Republican fundraiser who pleaded guilty last fall in a scheme to lobby the Trump

administration to drop an investigation into the looting of a Malaysian wealth fund. Another was Ken Kurson, a friend of Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner who was charged last October with cyberstalking during a heated divorce.

Bannon's pardon was especially notable given that the prosecution was still in its early stages and any trial was months away. Whereas pardon recipients are conventionally thought of as defendants who have faced justice, often by having served at least

some prison time, the pardon nullifies the prosecution and effectively eliminates any prospect for punishment.

Bannon was charged in August with duping thousands of donors who believed their money would be used to fulfill Trump's chief campaign promise to build a wall along the southern border. Instead, he allegedly diverted over a million dollars, paying a salary to one campaign official and personal expenses for himself. His co-defendants were not pardoned.

"Steve Bannon is getting a pardon from Trump after defrauding Trump's own supporters into paying for a wall that Trump promised Mexico would pay for," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said on Twitter. "And if that all sounds crazy, that's because it is. Thank God we have only 12 more hours of this den of thieves."

Other presidents have issued controversial pardons before leaving the White House. But perhaps no other commander in chief has so enjoyed using the clemency authority to benefit not only friends and acquaintances but also celebrity defendants and those championed by allies.

Wednesday's list includes its share of high-profile defendants.

Among them were rappers Lil Wayne and Kodak Black, both convicted in Florida on weapons

charges. Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter, has frequently expressed support for Trump and recently met with the president on criminal justice issues. Others on the list included Death Row Records co-founder Michael Harris and New York art dealer and collector Hillel Nahmad.

Pardoned were former Rep. Rick Renzi, an Arizona Republican who was sentenced to three years for corruption, money laundering and other charges, and former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California, who was convicted of accepting bribes from defense contractors. Cunningham, who was released from prison in 2013, received a conditional pardon.

Trump commuted the prison sentence of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who has served about seven years behind bars for a racketeering and bribery scheme.

Trump had already pardoned a slew of longtime associates and supporters, including his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort; Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in-law; his longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone; and his former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Bannon was the only most recent. He did not respond to questions.

Sports

Tiger Woods documentary opens narrative about role of parents in youth sports

Late last week, I was at home in front of our fireplace as my wife began to scroll through HBO to find something to watch on TV. Not paying attention, she asked if we could watch a new documentary that was being promoted on HBO's home screen. I looked up and immediately recognized the red Nike polo shirt and the charming smile.

We began the 90-minute plunge into "Tiger," part one of a two-part documentary.

We dove into what life was like before Tiger became immensely famous. We began to garner more of an understanding of how early his career in golf began, as well as the beginning of his career. Though the documentary centers around him, what left me in shock was the influence and actions of Tiger's father, Earl, throughout the earlier part of his son's life.

Tiger was born less than a year after Earl Woods ended his military career, which included a stint in Vietnam with the Green Berets. Before Tiger turned 2, Earl was teaching him golf. Once they realized the extent of Tiger's talents, Earl stepped aside to let others continue to teach, but his presence never left.

This documentary not only



COREY KIRK

painted a better picture of Earl, but also of his wife, Kultida. They wanted the best for Tiger. But he was so immersed in golf that he never had a chance to accomplish something most of us take for granted.

To be a kid.

The documentary explores Tiger's desire to try other sports, only to be encouraged by his parents to focus on golf, because no other sport would give him such a chance for success.

So Tiger stayed the course.

Watching this documentary, I felt an overwhelming sense of relief for how my parents raised my brothers and me. We were never told what sports to play and what sports not to, we were only encouraged to give our best effort.

Playing a multitude of sports, I've seen every kind of parent. One that sticks out in my mind was a Little League teammate whose overbearing father would lecture him for the smallest mistake. His son grew to hate baseball, and he

stopped playing before he got to high school.

Parents like Earl and Kultida exist in sports, among every level of play. Parents who expect the absolute best out of their children, and are ready to help them make the best of their experiences. They won't let any outside noise prevent them from reaching their fullest potential.

Don't get me wrong, talent at such a young age is hard to predict. Tiger certainly had it, and with his father pushing him, he developed an intense focus.

I think it's quite easy to overlook with the younger generation the importance of the numerous lessons you can learn in sports. It's an opportunity to build lifelong friendships, the ability to handle your losses as well as your wins, and to understand the importance of simply having fun.

Some parents will expect their kids to be the best, rather than giving their best effort.

Earl Woods' approach with Tiger convinced me that when that day comes, I want my kids to enjoy playing the sports they choose, and rather than put pressure on them to compete at a high level, I'll tell them to just have fun.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers end Trojans' win streak

CORVALLIS (AP) — Jarod Lucas and Ethan Thompson scored 13 points apiece and Oregon State beat Southern California 58-56 on Tuesday night, snapping the Trojans six-game winning streak.

Both teams struggled offensively down the stretch as Oregon State did not make a field goal in the final 3:13 and USC did not score in the last 2:19.

Rodrigue Andela made a pair of foul shots for the Beavers to cap the scoring with 1:49 left. USC's Drew Peterson

missed a 3-pointer with five seconds to go.

Roman Silva added 12 points for Oregon State (7-5, 3-3 Pac-12) on 6-for-7 shooting.

Evan Mobley scored 12 points and Peterson added 10 for the Trojans (11-3, 5-2).

Both teams were 20-for-48 (42%) shooting. Oregon State was 6 for 15 (40%) from 3-point range and USC 6 for 20 (30%). The Beavers shot 12 for 14 from the foul line and USC went 10 for 18.

Oregon State is scheduled to play at No. 21 Oregon on Saturday, Jan. 23.

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