Opinion

President Donald Trump is closer to Iranian and Venezuelan leaders than you might think

By LILLIAN CURTIN
Opinion Editor

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller died Saturday. Mueller was best known for investigating Russia's part in meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The report found that, yes, Russia had interfered in the election and tipped the election in favor of President Donald Trump.

You know, the same man who claimed that the 2020 election was stolen from him. Funny how that works, isn't it?

When word came out that Mueller had died, Trump took to Truth Social to celebrate.

"Robert Mueller just died. Good, I'm glad he's dead. He can no longer hurt innocent people!" he wrote.

Mind you, he wasn't a threat to the country or anything. He simply completed an investigation, following the law that he swore to uphold, that just happened to prove that there was an injustice. He did nothing wrong.

Meanwhile, Vice President JD Vance said, back when conservative podcaster Charlie Kirk was killed, that celebrating someone's death should be grounds for consequences.

This isn't the only time Trump celebrated the death of an innocent person, just because they weren't supporters. When director Rob Reiner and his wife were brutally murdered, he victim-blamed them and claimed that their death was brought on by "the anger he caused others through his massive, unyielding, and incurable affliction with a mind crumpling disease known as TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME."

Reiner was not ill. He was, by all accounts, a good man. One who many in Hollywood mourned closely.

Not only does he celebrate when an opponent or critic dies, but he's started to try to arrest them.

The Department of Justice is investigating Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, because Powell was not complying with Trump's demands regarding interest rates.

Former counterterrorism official Joe Kent recently resigned, saying he couldn't "in good conscience" support the war in Iran, and that the country posed "no imminent threat."

Surprise, surprise, following his resignation and public opposition to the war, the White House announced that he was under investigation, claiming that he was "often at the center of national security leaks."

It seems evident that the investigation is just a ploy for what I'm sure the president believes is retribution. In reality, it's just retaliation.

Arresting opponents is a common tactic with dictators. Didn't we steal Venezuela's president to "save" its people from a tyrannical regime?

That's fascinating considering Nicolas Maduro was using arrests and intimidation against his opposition as well.

We also shouldn't forget that Trump threatened to throw 2016 presidential opponent, and former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in jail.

Actually, there are many more similarities than you may believe. Following the 2024 Venezuelan presidential election, masked assailants ransacked the headquarters of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. Sound familiar? That's because it happened in the U.S., during the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Maduro's hold over power had a lot to do with undermining his country's elections, which is something Trump continuously tries to do. I mean, he just picked another 2020 election denier as his Secretary of Homeland Security.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, a friend of Trump's, North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un and the late Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, all did the same thing when it comes to attacking the opposition. Yes, the leader of Iran whom the U. S. killed.

Am I sad about Khamenei, or about Maduro? Hell no. But we cannot be hypocritical.

There's no coincidence that Trump can have all of these investigations, and hold so much hatred over his opponents, yet there's no arrests being made of the Epstein files, and he thinks we should move on. I wonder why that could be?

We're walking a very fine line, and it's getting even finer. Americans need to open their eyes to the warning signs.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Official portrait of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations Robert S. Mueller, circa 2001.

Corporate may be evil, but it's not bad

By JOANNA FARRELL
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Since the dawn of my early teenhood, I have heard the lore of working for corporate America. "Corporate America will suck the life out of you, they're evil, there's nothing good that comes out of working for a big company."

We've got entire forms of media based on the apparent life-sucking nature of the corporate world. But I'm not certain they're telling the whole truth.

Take my favorite game, Stardew Valley, a game about your character being drained from working at the corporate giant Joja, who leaves to inherit their grandpa's farm in the valley.

If I learned anything from Stardew Valley, it's that I might enjoy a corporate job rather than being a lonesome farmer. Your backbreaking work starts at 6 a.m. where for at least the first couple weeks of the season you are stuck individually watering every plant you have on your farm until you risk your life in the mines to either build sprinklers or upgrade your watering can.

Even though farmers in real life are not risking their lives battling creatures in multi-level mines, farmers face different challenges. Costs of goods and rising costs related to gear and taxes can often provide an unstable work environment for farmers. Along with uncontrollable factors like Mother Nature.

All this to say, corporate jobs are generally stable work environments. You clock in at 9 a.m. and clock out at 5 p.m., with an unpaid 30-minute break. However, not working for corporate America can leave you with unstable schedules, getting in early and getting out late.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILLIAN CURTIN

Working corporate for the benefits like paid time off, insurance and 401K can be really appealing for the average American, especially when you consider the rising costs of healthcare.

However, these benefits do not counter the true nature of corporate America. Unlike being a farmer, those long hours that you worked does not turn into something tangible that you can call yours. You are creating work, spending the best years of your life, being a number in a massive corporate giant and when you clock out at 5 p.m., nothing can be considered truly yours. It was for the company.

Everything you do is "in the company's best interest" rather than working for a company that cares about you as a person. That is something that small businesses generally don't have. The general feel of the small businesses I've worked for is that they'd do everything they can before laying you off rather than saying "we're restructuring" with no prior notice.

Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton didn't stutter when she said, "They let you dream just to watch 'em shatter." There are countless stories of people spending their entire lives working somewhere just to get laid off during a budget cut during the holiday season.

This is why I say that corporate is evil but not bad. They can screw you over in the worst ways possible but at the end of the day when you need better insurance, higher pay, a retirement plan, a consistent schedule or most other benefits that only corporate level companies can afford, it does make them a more beneficial and stable workplace.

I would love to see a day when small businesses are able to compete with the benefits offered by larger companies but until that happens, I understand why people are continuing to choose the corporate life.