**Pardon Turkey as a Tradition**

**Directions: listen to President Obama’s speech “Pardon Turkey as a Tradition” and then answer the following questions.**

1. What is the name of this year’s turkey?
2. Who brings this turkey to the White House?
3. Who issued the first official presidential pardon for a turkey?
4. What would be the fate for this year’s turkey?

**Key**

1. This year’s turkey is called “Courage”.
2. The National Turkey Federation has been bringing its finest turkeys to the White House for more than 50 years.
3. The first President Bush issued the pardon 20 years ago.
4. The turkey would head for Disneyland, where he’ll be grand marshal of Thanksgiving Parade.

**Script**

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Happy Thanksgiving, everybody. Welcome to the White House. On behalf of Sasha and Malia and myself, we’re thrilled to see you. I want to thank Walter Pelletier, chairman of the National Turkey Federation, and Joel Brandenberger, its president, for donating this year’s turkey. His name is “Courage,” and he traveled here from Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he was raised under Walter’s own precious care.

There you go.

Now, the National Turkey Federation has been bringing its finest turkeys to the White House for more than 50 years. I’m told Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson actually ate their turkeys.

You can’t fault them for that; that’s a good-looking bird. President Kennedy was even given a turkey with a sign around its neck that said, “Good Eatin’, Mr. President.” But he showed mercy and he said, “Let’s keep him going.” And 20 years ago this Thanksgiving, the first President Bush issued the first official presidential pardon for a turkey.

Today, I am pleased to announce that thanks to the interventions of Malia and Sasha — because I was planning to eat this sucker — “Courage” will also be spared this terrible and delicious fate. Later today, he’ll head to Disneyland, where he’ll be grand marshal of tomorrow’s parade. And just in case “Courage” can’t fulfill his responsibilities, Walterbrought along another turkey, “Carolina,” as an alternate, the stand-in.

Now, later this afternoon, Michelle, Malia, Sasha and I will take two of their less fortunate brethren to Martha’s table, an organization that does extraordinary work to help folks here in D.C. who need it the most. And I want to thank Jaindl’s Turkey Farm in Orefield, Pennsylvania, for donating those dressed birds for dinner. So today, all told, I believe it’s fair to say that we have saved or created four turkeys.