

## Dare Mighty Things

President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt was one of the most colorful of all the occupants of the White House. As the 26<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, he served from 1901 to 1909.



A leader of the Republican Party and founder of the Progressive, or “Bull Moose,” Party of 1912, he held various offices at the city, state and federal levels prior to becoming president, but was widely acclaimed for his achievements as a naturalist, explorer, hunter, author and soldier. Throughout his lifetime, he faced many challenges, including health. Roosevelt was born a sickly child suffering from asthma and was home-schooled with a strong interest in natural history.

His philosophy of life was demonstrated in a speech he gave at Chicago’s Hamilton Club on April 10, 1899. Here is an excerpt:

In the battle of life, it is not the critic who counts; nor the one who points out how the strong person stumbled, or where the doer of a deed could have done better. The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually strive to do deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, spends oneself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, if he or she fails, at least fails while daring greatly.

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those timid spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

Much wisdom is contained in Roosevelt’s remarks.

Those of us who labor in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home recognize that we have not chosen career paths that are smooth and trouble-free. Many tests and demands come our way. As Roosevelt suggests, we “know the great enthusiasms, the great devotion,” and we spend ourselves in a very worthy cause.

Let’s dare mighty things!

– Beecher Hunter