

On April 23, 1910, Theodore Roosevelt gave, what would become one of the most widely quoted speeches of his career. "Citizenship in a Republic," which would later become known as "[The Man in the Arena](#)". Over the years I have come back to this speech many times for encouragement and inspiration. My guess is many of you have read it, and found similar motivation.

In his speech, Roosevelt began by stating, "*It is not the critic who counts...*" How many times have we let someone who criticizes us, cause us to stop pursuing what God has laid on our hearts? Guilty as charged here! Admittedly, at times it is hard to tune the critics out. My guess is many of you have had this experience on more than one occasion. As Roosevelt closed his speech, he referred to being in the arena as "*daring greatly*". Defining what success looks like as making the choice to "dare greatly" and be in the arena, regardless of the outcome.

This week, summer begins for many across our great nation, as we celebrated the Memorial Day holiday. A day that recognizes those who didn't let the critic deter them, and chose to "dare greatly", making the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Having never been in that arena, I will not pretend to speak to what it means to "dare greatly" for your country. But I can say I am incredibly thankful for those who have on all of our behalf. I hope you share that gratitude, and let those in your life know that sacrifice is not taken for granted.

Live Life Intentionally™

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh". The letters are stylized and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the "h".