



Doing What Needs to be Done: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt

As a child, Theodore Roosevelt suffered nightly with a chronic smothering disease of the breathing airways called Asthma. At the age of thirteen, he learned that through vigorous physical exercise and a strenuous lifestyle he could build up his body to face anything and keep going. This even included a future would-be-assassin's bullet fired directly into his chest! Described during his life as a "Steam Engine in Trousers," "T.R.," as he would be called, spent his life doing what needed to be done.

He was both Uncle and Godfather to Eleanor Roosevelt and fifth cousin and mentor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. T.R. felt that life challenges must be met head on. From the devastating dual loss of his mother and his wife, who was the love of his life BOTH on the same day; to his fighting charge up San Juan Hill; and finally, his continuous battles with big business monopolies, corrupt government officials, and union organizers--Roosevelt had to keep going!

Historian, Jim Gibbons, will present the life of our 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. As Cowboy and Cattle driver, Deputy Sheriff, City Police Commissioner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Rough Rider, and then Governor of New York, T.R. was moving up quickly! Roosevelt was later jockeyed into the mundane position of the Vice Presidency where Roosevelt could do no harm. Then suddenly, fate stepped in. President William McKinley is assassinated and Roosevelt now becomes President of the United States. Using his motto to, "Walk softly and carry a big stick," Roosevelt rose to the ranks of becoming one of our highest ranking presidents and achieving the Nobel Peace Prize and the Medal of Honor. His image was also placed on Mount Rushmore, and his namesake placed on a child's toy called the "Teddy Bear." Gibbons brings to life the story of Theodore Roosevelt, the man, his presidency, and his lifestyle. T.R. was a man whose drive was to be just, moral and ethical by doing what needed to be done!