**As most of you no doubt know, during his lifetime, Theodore Roosevelt’s support of the police never faltered and was in fact almost legendary. He would certainly appreciate that every day in Dallas and in other cities throughout the country, our policemen and women encounter hardships and sacrifices to make our lives and property more secure. All of us who are members of the Theodore Roosevelt Association consider it an honor to salute them at our annual awards ceremony and to thank them for a job well done.**

**To that end, I am honored now to salute Officer Brannon Barber and to present this year’s award to him. Officer Barber was involved in a tragic incident on October 21, 2018. On that date, he responded to a traffic accident on state highway 408 and Interstate 20. He was assisting in the protection of an accident scene by laying out cones and flares to outline a safe path for oncoming traffic and to maintain safety for Dallas Fire Rescue and fellow officers investigating the collision. Incredibly, an impatient driver disregarded all of the marked squad cars, uniformed officers, properly placed flares and cones in an attempt to circumvent the decelerated traffic. Operating with a selfish abandonment and blatant disregard for everyone on the road, the driver drove through the flare line, onto the shoulder of the roadway and critically struck and ran over Officer Barber. The collision was so devastating that fellow officers and paramedics on the scent were unable to determine whether Officer Barber was still alive. He had sustained a laceration of his liver, spleen, and abdomen, multiple minor fractures of his ribs, hyperextension of his wrist and ankles, as well as a traumatic brain injury. For several weeks after the incident, he was kept in a medically induced coma in an effort to allow his body time to heal. During this period, it was uncertain whether he would return with any of his physical or mental abilities intact. After several months, he slowly regained his consciousness, but unfortunately had to relearn how to stand, walk, write, speak and eat. Imagine forgetting and having to relearn everything you know. You would be quite literally restarting your life from near zero. Officer Barber underwent extensive medical, physical, speech, and associated expert treatments. At the core of his continued recovery was his faith in God and the burning desire to return to full active duty. It was indeed faith that kept him alive, but it was his self-determination and drive to come back to duty that has aided in his continuing recovery.**

**Officer Barber is now back on duty and assigned to the Records Division. His seemingly unending journey continues to inspire and amaze everyone around him. He refuses to give in or give up on himself.**

**It’s a privilege to ask him now to join me at the podium to receive the 2022 Theodore Roosevelt Award. Officer Barber.**