



Istrouma Journal

Celebrating the Past and Building the Future of North Baton Rouge

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Gave New Life to Istrouma High School

Istrouma Mourns Douglas

Obituary

Reginald Jack Douglas 1968-2019

The steps of a good man are ordered by God: and He delighteth in his way. Psalm 37:23.

Reginald Jack Douglas, a native of Baton Rouge born July 6, 1968, was a loving husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend. Reginald went to his eternal home on Saturday, August 24, 2019, at the age of 51. He was the only son of Jack and Doris Carney Douglas.

Reginald accepted Christ at an early age. He was baptized in 1979 at the age of 11 by the late Reverend Morris Jackson at Little Zion Baptist Church, where he served faithfully as a young adult usher. As a young adult, he fellowshipped with several congregations where he always looked for an opportunity to serve the Body of Christ. Eventually, he became a member of Bethany World Prayer Center. In his Christian walk, he also established a close bond with Bishop Ronald Hardy of Faith, Hope and Love Worship Center.

Reginald was a product of the East Baton Rouge School System, graduating from Glen Oaks High School in 1986. Soon after, he joined the U.S. Army where he served in Germany. After returning from military service, Reginald graduated from Southern University and A & M College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Later,

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Photo by Woody Jenkins

Reginald Douglas, principal at Istrouma High, died Aug. 24 of blood clot in lungs.

Inspired Leader Vowed to Make Istrouma Best School in State

BATON ROUGE - Istrouma High School principal Reginald Douglas, 51, passed away unexpectedly on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 24. The popular Baton Rouge educator successfully led the historic school through a time of great change.



Istrouma principal Reginald Douglas

Since before taking charge as principal, Douglas told everyone who would listen that Istrouma would someday be "the best school in the State of Louisiana." At first, people laughed, but as time passed, they began to believe it.

Douglas had been having foot pain for weeks. It was worse that Friday, and he went to urgent care. On Saturday, he had to stay in bed and missed a kickoff party for Istrouma sports teams at the school.

Around 8:30 p.m., his family took him to Oschner's on O'Neal. He was undergoing tests when he passed out briefly. When he came

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Reginald Douglas Leaves a Powerful Legacy

A Living Example of God's Love in Action

Woody Jenkins

Editor, Istrouma Journal

Man of Steel and Velvet by Aubrey Andelin — *The essence of this book is that to be a man, one must have two sides. On the one hand, he must be as hard as steel, because that is necessary to defend home, family, community, and nation. But if he is only made of steel, a man will break much of what a touches. So a manly man must also wear the velvet glove and understand how to handle all that is precious and good.*

BATON ROUGE - In his speech at Reginald Douglas' Memorial Services at Bethany North last Friday, Supt. Warren Drake described Mr. Douglas as a man with an iron hand and a teddy bear heart.

Mr. Douglas' long-time friend Kurt Guerin described Mr. Douglas



Photo by Woody Jenkins

A RARE PHOTO — Istrouma High principal Reginald Douglas was far more likely to be found in the classrooms and hallways of Istrouma High than behind a desk.

as "my angel."

They were both right.

In April 2017, as a member of the Istrouma Advisory Committee, I was one of those who interviewed Reginald Douglas when he applied to be hired as principal at my *alma mater*, Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge.

My first impression was, "Wow, he's a really big guy! He must be at least 6'4 or 6'5. I don't think he'll have a problem with students at Istrouma wanting to challenge him!"

By the end of the interview, I was impressed by many other things. He seemed to understand all the things a principal has to know these days, such as offering a "rigorous" academic curriculum and the importance of performance on state-mandated tests. But he seemed to understand a lot more than that.

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