

Reginald James Rush

Reginald "Reggie" James Rush was born on December 10, 1949, in Washington, D.C., the first son of seven children born to James Rush and Beatrice Rush-Allen. Reggie grew up in the D.C. area and, after attending Northern Virginia Community College, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1970 during the Vietnam War.

In the summer of 1973, when he had completed his tour of duty and returned to Washington, he was introduced to the Unification Church by Pam Stein, who met him at DuPont Circle. Reggie was deeply inspired by the message of the Divine Principle and chose to dedicate himself to the call of Heaven. He was thrilled to begin working with the church by visiting ministers in the D.C. area to invite them to Father Moon's speeches during the 21-city tour. Subsequently, he was chosen to join the Global Team to tour Japan and Korea from 1974 to 1975. This culminated with his dedicated service that helped attract 1.2 million people to the Victory Over Communism Rally on Yoido Island.

Once Reggie returned from the Global Team in the fall of 1975, he joined News World Communications in New York, where he was both co-director of circulation for the *News World* (a news daily that later became the *New York City Tribune*) and editor for the *Harlem Weekly*, a section of the *Tribune* that encouraged good local government and citizenship. He also worked for Paragon House publishers under the International Cultural Foundation.

In 1989, Reggie and Osmarina participated in the Holy Marriage Blessing in Korea (as a 2,075 couple originally). In 1993 they returned to the Washington area to be closer to his family. For many years they had longed for a child, and when they were finally blessed with Zenas in 1998, they were overwhelmed with joy to have such a precious son.

Around the time of their return to the Washington area, however, Reggie began to suffer from serious health issues. He endured the debilitating effects of hepatitis for 18 years. Throughout the years, he and Osmarina have been known as a warm, caring couple who maintained a very positive attitude through much hardship. Their devotion to God and True Parents has been an inspiration. Finally two years ago, Reggie underwent a successful liver transplant. But just a few months ago, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. An operation to remove a tumor on April 15 was successful, but he was not able to recover from complications and passed into the spiritual realm on May 5, 2011.

Throughout his life, Reggie has been known as an affable, idealistic, energetic man filled with empathy, intelligence, and a great sense of humor. He was all heart, with a fine spirit. Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he was a rainbow man, loving and working easily with all races of people. These exemplary qualities were exhibited daily in his deep devotion to his family, and most of all, to God and True Parents.

Reggie's love continues to live on through his wife Osmarina, his 13-year-old son Zenas, his mother Mrs. Beatrice Allen, his four remaining brothers Tyron, Ivan, Fred, Michael and their families.