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APRIL 2025

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A Note  
From the  
Publisher

Providing a platform to celebrate  
and unite the top real estate  
professionals across Acadiana!

BY DRAKE ABSHIRE

Hello Acadiana Realtors!

Spring is in full swing, and with it comes new  
opportunities to grow, connect, and celebrate  
the incredible real estate community we have  
here in Acadiana!

First, we're excited to welcome our newest  
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as part of our network, and we encourage you to reach out to  
them for all your tree care needs!

We also want to take a moment to **thank everyone who  
attended our Celebrating the Top 300 event!** It was an  
incredible day filled with networking, recognition, and  
appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the top-  
producing real estate professionals in our area. Seeing so many  
familiar faces reminded us why this industry is so special. If  
you weren't able to attend, don't worry! We've put together a  
**recap of the event in this issue**, so be sure to check it out.

As we look ahead, we have **two exciting events coming up**,  
and we want you to mark your calendars:

**April 12, 2025 – Parish Proud Day**

We're partnering with **Parish Proud** to help make Lafayette  
look and feel its best! This is a wonderful opportunity to give  
back to the community by participating in beautification  
projects that will have a lasting impact. Whether it's picking  
up litter, planting greenery, or sprucing up shared spaces, your  
efforts will help keep our city vibrant and welcoming.



**April 16, 2025 – Parade of Realtors Event**

This is an event you won't want to miss! Stay tuned for more  
details on the location and agenda, but rest assured, it will be  
a fantastic opportunity to network, collaborate, and celebrate  
the success of our real estate community. Keep an eye on your  
inbox for updates!

With so much happening, this season is shaping up to be  
one of our best yet! We're honored to continue bringing you  
meaningful connections, valuable resources, and exciting  
opportunities to grow your business. As always, thank you for  
being part of this amazing community—we can't wait to see  
what's ahead!

**Here's to a fantastic spring!**

With heartfelt thanks,



**DRAKE ABSHIRE**  
Owner/Publisher  
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# Parish **PROUD DAY!**

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# Celebrating the Top 300



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NUMA FILMS

**Kicking Off 2025 with Acadiana's Top 300 Agents!**

The new year is here, and we're starting it off strong by celebrating the top 300 agents of 2025! Our recent event was an incredible gathering of industry leaders, filled with energy, networking, and well-deserved recognition. Attendees enjoyed exciting door prize giveaways, great company, and a fantastic atmosphere—all made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, Lalande Title and GMFS Mortgage. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us in making this event a success! Here's a look at some of the highlights from the day.



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# Aun'Trawnae Martin

PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY WESLEY SUN  
CHEE FORE

**How many years have you been a realtor?**  
June 5th will mark 2 years.

**What is your career volume as a realtor?**  
\$4.1 million

**What was your total volume last year?**  
\$3.3 million

**What awards have you achieved as a realtor?**  
Voted “Best Realtor” in New Iberia’s Best of the Teche. Also received “Rookie of the Year” at my previous brokerage.

**When did you start your career in real estate?**  
I was officially licensed on June 5th, 2023!

**What did you do before you became a realtor?**  
I was the manager at a local boutique in Youngsville called All About You for 5 years. It was the start of my shopping addiction!

**What are you passionate about right now in your business?**  
I’m definitely passionate about growing and learning—just trying to be the best agent I can be for my clients.

**What has been the most rewarding part of your business?**  
The most rewarding feeling is helping someone who didn’t think they could get into a home. I’ve helped so many first-time homebuyers since starting my journey, and it warms my heart just knowing I was a part of such a monumental moment.

**What was your biggest challenge as a realtor?**  
Oh gosh... can I say all of it? Just kidding. If I had to pick one thing, it would be being such a soft person. It takes some tough skin to be in the real estate industry,







and that's something I'm still working on, to be honest.

**How does real estate fit into your dreams and goals?**

Real estate gives me the chance to make a difference in someone's life, and that's all I've ever wanted to do. My goal in general is to touch as many people's lives as

I can, and real estate gives me a platform to do so.

**What's your favorite part of being a realtor?**

There's so much I love. I love meeting different people, whether it's clients or just others in the industry. I love to talk—so just meeting so many different people

“  
*This is  
just the  
beginning!”*

and hearing their stories is so exciting for me.

**Define success.**

Success to me as a new realtor is about making a meaningful impact on the lives of the people I serve. It's not about the number of deals I close but about the trust I build and the positive experiences I create for my clients. It's about showing up with dedication, doing my best every single time, and knowing that my efforts are making a real difference.

**Tell us about your family.**

My small family is a perfect mix of chaos, love, and unexpected moments. Definitely not the most traditional, but that's what makes us who we are. You're definitely in for a laugh if you're around us. They're the best, and I wouldn't be who I am today without them.

**Favorite books? Podcasts?  
Motivational Quotes?**

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Not a motivational quote, but a scripture I live by. It's a reminder that no matter the challenges or obstacles you face, you're never alone.

**Are there any charities or organizations you support?**

I don't necessarily dedicate all my time to a single charity, but I try to live my life in a way



that spreads love and kindness wherever I can. For me, it's about looking for opportunities to make a positive impact on those around me, whether it's through small acts of kindness, helping the homeless, or being there for someone in need. I believe that love and compassion can transform lives, and sometimes it's the simple gestures that make the biggest difference. I do try to donate when I can, as I believe even small contributions can make a big impact. Rather than focusing on one specific cause, I aim to embody those values every day. This world needs a little more of that.

**What are your hobbies and interests outside of the business?**

I've been teaching dance for 10 years—ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop. Let me tell you, my girls definitely keep me on my toes and in line. That keeps me busy enough, balancing between the two.

**Given your status and expertise, what is some advice you would give the up-and-coming top producer?**

Not everything is going to go as planned, but that's okay. I would say take every deal and treat it as a learning experience. Every challenge you face is helping you grow in ways you wouldn't believe.

**In closing, is there anything else you would like to communicate using this Acadiana Real Producer platform?**

If there's ever a way I can help—whether in real estate or just as a person to turn to—I'm here to serve. Thank you for allowing me the chance to share my story and be part of this amazing network! It means the world to me, and I'm still shocked I was even asked and so grateful. This is just the beginning!








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# ERICA RENEE TAYLOR

## Staying True To Herself While Guiding Others

WRITTEN BY JESS WELLAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ACE SYLVESTER

No one ever has to wonder if Erica Renee Taylor will show up. “I’ll usually get calls or text messages asking, ‘Please hold me a seat,’” Erica chuckles. “I’m the first to show up and almost always the last to leave.”

With almost two decades in real estate and a knack for being the go-to person for her colleagues and community, Erica proves that showing up is more than half the battle — it’s the keystone of her ethos. As a seasoned Associate Broker and the sole Agent Ambassador at Latter & Blum/Compass, Erica embodies service, mentorship, and advocacy in every role she undertakes.

**A Life Redefined**  
Erica’s real estate career didn’t begin in an office, but rather, on the floor of her salon.

“I’ll never forget the doctor saying, depending upon the severity of this vertigo, I could possibly become disabled,” Erica recalls.

As the owner of a successful barber and beauty salon in Louisiana for 15 years, Erica had always been on the go, working long hours and thriving in a fast-paced environment. But after two debilitating vertigo episodes, she realized she needed a career change that would still allow

her to be her own boss while continuing to help people. Facing an uncertain future, she prayed for guidance.

Real estate provided Erica with a fresh start in 2006 — one where she could leverage her deep connections in her community while embracing her love of people and property.

“Real estate felt like a relationship destined to happen,” she smiles. “I loved the interaction and being part of such big moments in people’s lives.”

After starting her career in Texas, Erica returned home to Louisiana,





where she obtained her broker's license. Soon after, she launched her own brokerage, Magnolia Property Investments LLC, which she successfully ran for 17 years. "That experience was invaluable," Erica affirms. "It taught me so much about leadership, resilience, and the importance of community."

Eventually, larger brokerages began to take notice of Erica's talents, and in 2023, she joined Latter & Blum/Compass, where her unique role as Agent Ambassador was created specifically for her.

#### The Heart Of Her Brokerage

From flipping houses to fostering agents' careers, Erica continues to be a tireless advocate for her community and colleagues while representing the heart and soul of her brokerage.

"I'm the person that has their hand in everything," Erica explains. "I mentor agents, represent the company at events, and am always available for questions or support."

The Agent Ambassador role aligns perfectly with her big heart. With 225 agents in the brokerage, she's a welcoming touchpoint for guidance and encouragement, emphasizing persistence over perfection.

"Success for me is falling 1,000 times while continuing to get back up," Erica shares. "It's about perseverance, resilience, and helping others achieve their goals."

Her colleagues clearly value her contributions too, as evidenced by her nomination for the PEER Award and her proudest accolade, the Al Lopez Award.

"Al never met a stranger, and his compassion inspired me to build

relationships rooted in sincerity," Erica offers. "When you spoke with him, it felt like you had known each other forever."

#### Advocacy Beyond The Office

Erica's passion for assisting others stretches far beyond her brokerage. She serves as President-Elect for the Realtor Association of Acadiana, a board member for the Southwest Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce, and is deeply involved in various committees and organizations, including ACPAT, Major Investor and LARPAC.

"I believe in showing up to help," Erica offers. "Whether it's supporting LUPUS Awareness, 100 Black Men, sponsoring a child for Pucci Percussion, Ashmay's Seeds of Abraham Mardi Bras Event, St. Landry's Thanksgiving Day for the unfortunate, donating to the Nezey Foundation and providing laptops to students who could not afford them. It's all about making a difference and an impact."

"Real estate felt like a relationship destined to happen."



"To thine own self be true.' That's my mantra, and it's how I approach everything I do."

well. "I'm an introvert at heart ... I love eating out alone and savoring quiet time," she shares. "Those significant moments keep me grounded."

She's also quick to point out her devout faith keeps her centered in the midst of a hectic schedule.

"My values are absolutely rooted in my faith," she notes. "There's no doubt my faith also affects me and the people around me. They know that I'm the person that they can come to about anything and I will always listen and encourage them without judgment."

Looking ahead, Erica envisions opening an assisted living facility within the next five to seven years to make an even greater contribution to her parish.

"My love and care for people extend beyond real estate. This has always been a passion close to my heart," she says.

As Erica continues to mentor agents, advocate for her community, and pursue her dreams, her impact is undeniable.

"To thine own self be true," she quotes. "That's my mantra, and it's how I approach everything I do. I vow to enjoy every moment, laugh uncontrollably, and take each experience — good or bad — as a teachable moment."

As a Realtor, being cultivated through LEDA's "Elevate North Lafayette" was particularly rewarding, as she transformed a blighted property to breathe new life back into the community. "I enjoy seeing the potential in what others overlook and finding ways to bring those properties back to life," she adds with a smile.

"Through Southwest Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce, 'Corporate Connect' is another effort I'm passionate about as well," she continues. "We meet to celebrate small businesses and work with local officials to improve our community. It's all about networking and brainstorming to develop creative

solutions, support local initiatives and discuss pressing issues."

#### Her Anchors

Faith and family are at the very core of everything Erica does. "My family means everything to me," she affirms, speaking of her two daughters, Khalia (28) and Karlee (15), and her mother, Mildred (80).

"We're big on cooking, traveling, and binge-watching movies," she laughs. "Equalizer" is a family favorite, but I'm the one who insists on repeat viewings."

Despite her busy schedule, Erica prioritizes carving out moments of solitude for self-reflection as



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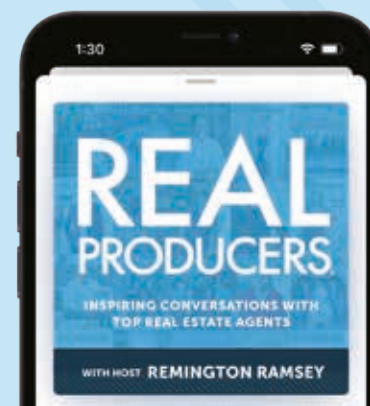
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# Brandy

## SINER

FEARLESS  
& FOCUSED  
QUEEN OF SOLD

WRITTEN BY JESS WELLAR • PHOTOGRAPHY BY WESLEY SUN CHEE FORE

The self-made powerhouse behind Goldie Locks Realty in Lafayette, Brandy Siner has built a thriving business with her signature mix of grit, ambition and authenticity. Brandy has been through challenges that would break most people, but quitting has never been in her DNA.

“I started in this business at the tender age of 22, and I had to prove myself before people would really start to trust me,” she shares. “Back then, my biggest fear had already happened when I lost my husband, so I wasn’t afraid to fail after that.”

That bold mindset has served Brandy well — today, she’s leading a boutique brokerage of nine agents, closing nearly \$21.3 million in personal sales last year alone, and showing no signs of letting off the gas.

### One Bold Move At A Time

Brandy didn’t just go into real estate to earn a living — it was about building stability for her family after tragedy struck. In 2005, she lost her husband, an active-duty soldier, in a devastating car accident. Suddenly a single mom to her 1.5-year-old son, Ju’Quincy, she knew she had to create a solid foundation for their future.

Determined to take control of her life while taking her mind off matters, she went back to school and bought her first home in 2005, sparking a passion for real estate.

“My Realtor, the late Sylvia Mouton, encouraged me to explore investment opportunities,” Brandy recalls. “And my mom pushed me to get my real estate license, knowing I’d need the knowledge if I was going to keep investing.”

So, while juggling school, single motherhood, and an entirely new career, Brandy dove headfirst into real estate. And as it turns out, she was built for it.

### From Rookie To ‘Queen Of Sold’

Brandy obtained her license in 2007, and by 2017, she was ready to take things to the next level. The idea of Goldie Locks Realty came to her in a moment of clarity.

“I heard God tell me that this is where I needed to be,” she affirms. “I had already helped a lot of agents in the industry become top producers, and I wanted more agents to have real support.”

She launched her brokerage with a clear vision: to create a team that genuinely loved real estate, wanted to learn, and had the drive to become top producers while still caring about others.

“We’re very community-based, social, very hands-on and helpful, and we look out for each other,” Brandy notes with pride. “I’ve also watched my agents pull all kinds of tricks out of their sleeves to make a client’s dream come true.”





Ask anyone who knows Brandy, and they'll tell you she's tough as nails but has a heart of gold.

"I'm a risk-taker," Brandy offers. "I've been successful in this business for so long because I treat people like family, but I'm also on time, professional, honest, and always learning. You have to be astute and lean into 'you' to stand out from the crowd."

Standing out has never been an issue for Brandy. She's got a natural knack for promotion, a larger-than-life personality, and an instinct for keeping her business top-of-mind.

"For my birthday for example, I throw a big party every year and invite everyone — I even change outfits a half dozen times because, well, it's who I am," she laughs.

### The Right Mindset

Brandy doesn't just talk the talk — she lives it day in and day out after 17 years in the business. But her definition of success goes beyond consistency; she continues to set the bar higher each year to avoid complacency.

"Success is when your life exceeds your visions," she declares. "Motivation is temporary, but drive? Drive is forever."

She credits her mother for instilling that mindset early on: "My mom taught me you can never quit. So I really don't understand giving up or giving in," Brandy shrugs. "When I realized I was going to be in real estate full time, I refused to leave the office each night until I had a new buyer pre-approved or a new listing appointment. You wake up every day unemployed in this business so you have to stack the deck ... there are certainly no guarantees."

Her advice to up-and-coming agents is just as no-nonsense as her approach to running her brokerage: "Never follow the crowd; most of the time it's all smoke and mirrors, and way overcrowded. Success is a very simple recipe and is always in plain sight while keeping God in your life."

### Big Family Fun

For all her drive, Brandy is a family woman through and through. Her son, Ju'Quincy, is now 21 and following in her footsteps, working as one of her three assistants while he gets his real estate license.

She's also incredibly close with her immediate family; every Sunday after church, they gather at her parents' house for a big meal, football, and plenty of laughs. And when it's time to unwind, they take large family vacations together — this year, they're heading to Cozumel for her birthday.

A huge animal lover, Brandy also shares her home with Smokey, her 75-pound Pitbull, named after Smokey from the





movie 'Friday.' "Smokey is very loving and sneaky," she laughs. "He definitely lives up to his name!"

Beyond family, Brandy's devout faith is the cornerstone of her life. A member of Lift City Church, she leans on God daily for guidance and support.

"Understanding and having that close-knit relationship with God helps me trust His plan. I know He gives His toughest battles to His bravest soldiers."

Looking ahead, Brandy's future vision is just as clear as it was when she started her brokerage: impressive growth on all levels. She plans to expand Goldie Locks Realty to 29 agents, believing that small, tight-knit brokerages are the real recipe for success. She also recently purchased a property to build her future office — right on the Mardi Gras parade route.

"I'm a huge Mardi Gras fan," she smiles. "Even when it's not Mardi Gras, I still wear the colors and makeup sometimes!"

Whether it's donating to local dog shelters and the Humane Society, supporting school programs and city sports teams, or staying active in her church, she plans to continue using her success to uplift others.

"Figuring out that life is lived the way I design it allowed me to embrace a life of boldness, grace, confidence, and most importantly, love," she concludes.



“MOTIVATION  
IS TEMPORARY,  
BUT DRIVE?  
DRIVE IS

*Forever.*”





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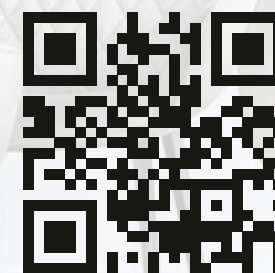
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# Regan Tatford

WITH KREWE CONSTRUCTION  
& DEVELOPMENT GROUP

*As a child, Regan Tatford had an affinity for Legos, spending countless hours meticulously constructing miniature masterpieces. That passion for building never left him; it simply evolved to building custom dream homes.*

## EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, NOT BUDGETS

"I've always enjoyed the gratification that comes with following a plan and creating something out of nothing," Regan shares. Today, as the owner of Krewe Construction & Development Group, he channels that same creativity and attention to detail into every project he tackles.

### Laying The Foundation

Before founding Krewe Construction in 2021, Regan's career path took him from the military to the oil and gas sector. After graduating from United States Military Academy at West Point with a full ride scholarship to play Division 1 football, he served as an artillery officer for six years, with deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The problem-solving process that goes into delivering timely fires in combat is not so very different from the problem-solving process that we go through almost daily in helping our clients' vision come into focus and reality," Regan points out.

Following his military service, Regan transitioned into the industrial construction world, managing multimillion-dollar facilities while learning "some very valuable lessons and skills" that he now applies to his project management for residential builds.

### Tailored, Transparent Experiences

Based in Lafayette since 2021, Krewe Construction & Development Group focuses on new single-family residential custom

construction for any budget. They serve both the Lafayette and Baton Rouge markets with a team of four experts.

"Our team is built to cater to our clients' needs and ensure that the project progresses as quickly as the client allows for," Regan notes. "The ultimate reward for our employees is the tremendous sense of pride that we feel for the product we produce."

The company thrives on a process-oriented approach, leveraging a software platform to manage budgets, track deliverables, and facilitate timely decision-making.

"We're a very collaborative team," Regan adds. "The things that are important to one client might not be important to another, so we keep that in mind and collaborate daily on project statuses so everyone is on the same page."

Krewe Construction isn't just about building houses either — they're extremely focused on creating homes that reflect each client's unique style. Stellar communication is also at the core of their operations, while their attention to responsible financial stewardship is another tremendous differentiator.

"We are hyper-focused on remaining transparent with progress, schedule, and most importantly, budget. In fact, in the last year alone, all of our projects have come in under budget!" Regan says with pride. "It is our job and responsibility to be great







stewards of the money our clients are entrusting us to spend on their behalf.”

**Built on Trust**

For top-producing Realtors, Regan offers this assurance: “When you bring a client to us to help achieve their dream of a new home, they’re in good hands with Krewe Construction & Development Group. The size of the projects may change, but the quality and craftsmanship displayed daily doesn’t.”

Regan also recognizes that communication is key in these partnerships; he is quick to credit Krewe’s success to the company’s trusted trade partners.

“We try to update our system regularly to ensure that clients understand what decisions are coming their way. It’s a very collaborative tool,” he explains. “We cannot be successful without each other.”

What does Regan find most fulfilling about his work? “We don’t just build homes. I like to believe that we’re ultimately building a new family member for our clients,” he smiles. “Each day they’re going to wake up and walk through the house that we built for them and be reminded of our relationship and the experience they went through to achieve the final product. We want that

daily reminder to be a good one for them!”

**Navigating Industry Changes**

Like many in the construction industry, Krewe Construction faced challenges during COVID-19, including material shortages and cost inflation.

“We were able to navigate those challenges by building solid systems to ensure deadlines and budgets were met,” Regan elaborates.

Today, the market has stabilized — thank goodness. “Costs have leveled out, and there are no more supply chain issues from COVID,”

he continues. However, he remains vigilant about potential fluctuations due to changes in government administered-tariffs.

“Ultimately, the market always autocorrects itself eventually,” he points out.

**Family, Football, and Mardi Gras**

Outside of work, Regan is deeply involved in his community. “I’m a Mardi Gras junkie and spend a great deal of time serving on the Krewe of Bonaparte board,” he shares. Interestingly, the name “Krewe” isn’t just a nod to Mardi Gras; it’s an acronym derived from the first initials



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JUST BUILD  
HOMES.”





"WE CANNOT BE  
SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT  
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of Regan, his wife Kriste, and their three children: William, Ellet, and Eliza.

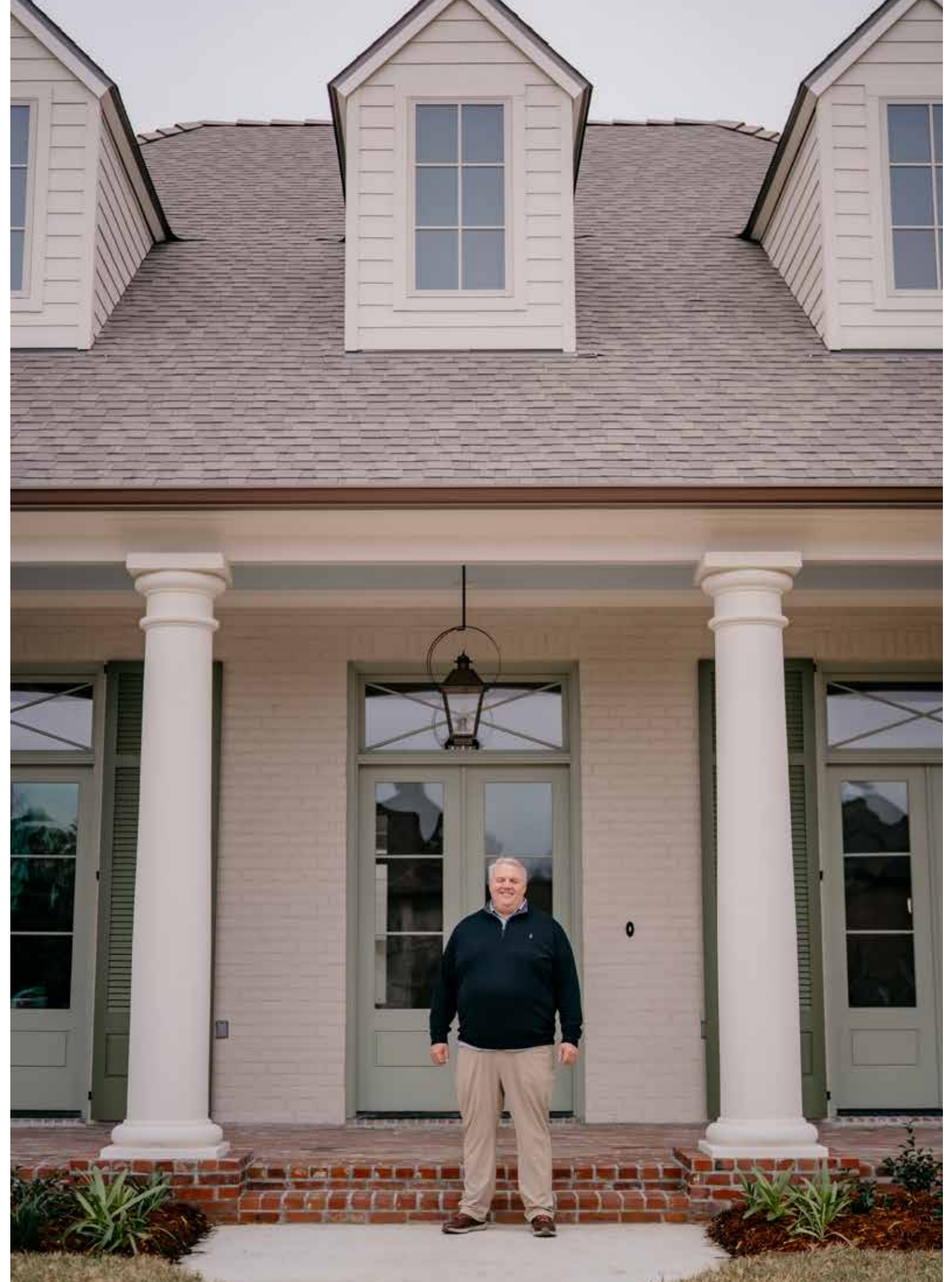
Regan also coaches football at Our Lady of Fatima School.

"I have had so many opportunities in my life because I played Division I football on scholarship. It's the ultimate team sport. This is my way of giving back," he emphasizes.

Family time is paramount for Regan. The Tatfords spend a good deal of time supporting their kids' activities — t-ball, soccer, basketball, flag football, dance — and love a great meal out together. "Judice Inn is our local go-to burger spot," he adds.

As a veteran-owned business, Krewe Construction proudly offers discounts to military members and first-responders. The company also supports Our Lady of Fatima School, Lafayette Little League, and St. Thomas More Football radio broadcasts.

"At the end of the day, I wanted to make my mark on the area of the world that I love to call home and couldn't think of a better way to do so than in the residential market," he concludes. "I wanted to build a business that my children could one day be a part of and continue our legacy in Lafayette."







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