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Interim Escambia County Administrator George To

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Interim Escambia County Administrator George Touart died Friday morning. / News Journal file photo

Interim Escambia County Administrator George Touart passed away this morning at the age of 65.

County spokesman Bill Pearson confirmed that Touart was at home with his family at the time of his death.

“This is a somber day for county employees, and he will be missed,” he said. “We will be flying flags at half-staff today in Mr. Touart’s honor.”

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Touart, who had turned in his resignation effective Feb. 3, had been on sick leave since Dec. 26 because of complications from his battle with cancer.

Pearson said that he could not confirm if Touart’s death was caused by cancer, but he said that the Touart’s health had been failing for some time.

In his resignation letter sent to commissioners last week, Touart provided no explanation for his resignation but thanked



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commissioners for the opportunity to serve. He also expressed pride for what the county accomplished during his tenure.

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Touart served as county administrator from 2002 until 2007, and had been serving as interim county administrator since December of 2012.

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Among these accomplishments, Touart listed the transition of the Escambia County Jail and West Florida Public Library system, last year's passage of the county gas tax,

economic development initiatives and the purchase of the Brownsville Assembly of God church, which the county plans to transform into a community center.

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“George served this county for a long time, and I was happy to have the opportunity to work with him,” County Commissioner Lumon May said. “Right now isn’t a time for politics, it’s a time to pray for his family.”

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Touart was born and raised in Pensacola and graduated from Pensacola High School in 1966. He owned multiple successful companies and served in numerous leadership roles in local government including Pascagoula (Miss.) City Councilman, Public Information Officer for the Mississippi State High Department and County Administrator of Madison County, Miss.

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He also belonged to the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church and was a member of many community and civic organizations throughout the years, including Five Flags Rotary, Irish Politician’s Club, Moss Point Young Men’s Business Club, the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Escambia County and Baptist Hospital Board of Directors.

Touart is survived by his parents Clyde and Mary Touart, wife Barbara, sons Mathew and Jacob Touart and daughters Amber Howard and Christy McDonald, as well as numerous grandchildren.

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