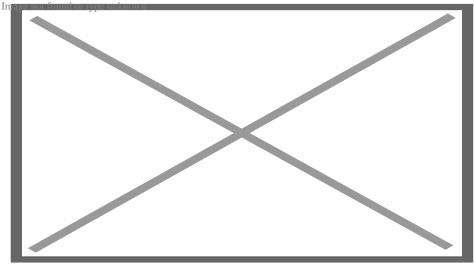


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How did MTS Bus Operator Antwine Velaquez turn a story of tragedy into triumph? It all started with an accident that would change his life forever. Antwine was involved in a serious motorcycle accident that caused him severe injuries, including the loss of one leg below the knee. He spent several months recovering and rehabilitating from his injuries, followed by several more months attempting to secure the proper certification that would allow him to return to a job he cherishes – driving a bus for MTS.

"If you want it, you have to go get it," said Antwine. A phrase he grew up hearing from his stepfather and applies it to his everyday life.

Antwine was raised in a tight knit family that instilled strong values and a good work ethic, principles he strives to pass on to his own children, Zyair and Anyale. (Anyale is a linebacker for Southwestern College and hopes to further his academic and football career at Louisiana Tech).

His strong family values, a great work ethic and dedication to his family are no doubt what kept him motivated through the challenges that life put in front of him.

Antwine successfully passed all of his state mandated tests and was certified to operate a bus. He's now back in the driver's seat for MTS and continuing to do the work he's done for the last 10 years.

Life can throw curveballs every now and then. Antwine's determination, values, and positive approach during his recent life trial confirm that a short-term tragedy can be turned into life-long triumph.

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