



## Kenneth D. Struve III

October 14, 1962 - December 29, 2023

In Memoriam: Kenneth D. Struve III, 61

With heavy hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Kenneth Struve at the age of 61,

surrounded by his loving family in Ocala, Florida on December 29th, 2023.

Born in Wichita Falls,

Texas, Ken spent much of his life in New York City, where he made a lasting mark on everyone around him.

Ken founded the nonprofit organization City Access New York, focusing on the inclusivity and

empowerment of New Yorkers of all abilities. He felt true fulfillment in extending a helping hand

to those in need. His compassion and endeavors created a ripple of positive change, making a

lasting impact on the lives of many.

Always the competitor, Ken never shied away from a tennis or chess match, his opponents often

being those closest to him. He was always quick with a cheesy joke and the first to cue up a bad

horror movie for a good laugh. He also had a love for music, funky artwork, and cooking.

Ken is survived by his mother (Linda Struve), sister (Linda Doerflein), nephew

(Skyler

Doerflein), two stepchildren (William and Casey Metz), and a host of friends.

He leaves a void

that will be felt deeply. As we reflect on his life, let us carry forward his spirit of inclusion and joy.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Graveside services will be held at Deland Memorial Gardens, 600 E Beresford Ave, DeLand, FL

32724, Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 11:00 AM.

Luncheon to follow services.

In lieu of flowers, family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of

contributions to City Access New York at [cityaccessny.org](http://cityaccessny.org). "In memory of Kenneth D.

Struve, III."

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN 13. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Deland Memorial Gardens  
600 E. Beresford Avenue  
Deland, FL 32724

# Tribute Wall

YS

“ I am so very sorry to only learn now about the passing of Ken. I was lucky enough to 'steal him away' in the 1990's from the YMCA to help start educational programming at the South Street Seaport Museum, where he quickly became my good friend, as well as 'my right hand'.

*Ken opened up the museum to an entirely new group of young people with disabilities, most of whom had never experienced the kind of wonderful activities he developed on the museum's historic schooners. As a team, we wrote grants that made it all possible. We marveled at children who were blind holding their hands to the sails, feeling the power of the wind blowing against them; or putting their ear to the bottom of the vessel listening to the water gushing underneath. He had mechanical ship drawings translated in braille, and enabled the museum to install a ramp to the vessels for wheelchair-bound students. He opened up a new, adventurous world to numerous students.*

*When we both left in 2005/6 he went on to start his own not-for-profit, City Access, working with an even wider spectrum of kids around the city. I went on to run the Anne Frank Center - our paths slowly parted, even more so when he moved to Florida.*

*Ken loved what he was doing and wholeheartedly participated in all the programs he developed. He loved those kids with that big heart of his. That is the legacy he left; he is sorely missed.*



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Yvonne Simons - April 20, 2024 at 10:29 PM

PN

“ One aspect of Ken’s remarkable career in social service was his contribution to access programming while a colleague at the South Street Seaport Museum — most notably, sailing trips aboard a century-old sailing vessel in New York Harbor for sight-impaired children. We sailed; they listened, and then they told us what they had “seen.” It was innovative, emotional, and astonishingly effective for everyone aboard, a gift from Ken’s special commitment and dedication. Safe passage, over the bar, Mr. Struve.

*Peter Neill*

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**Peter Neill** - April 20, 2024 at 07:47 PM

CV

“ Dear family and friends of Ken Struve, I am terribly sorry for your loss. He was a bright light in my life and I know in the lives of everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him. Ken was one of the most important mentors for me in the early part of my career. We first met when I joined the steering committee of the volunteer-led Museum Access Consortium. Ken was co-chairing MAC at the time and made me feel truly welcome and valued. Shortly after meeting him, I was inspired by the work he was doing at City Access New York and left my museum job to help realize his vision of a more inclusive city for people with disabilities. For four years, I designed and oversaw programs for City Access New York that engaged students who were blind or had low vision with the city around them through multi-sensory exploration and community partnerships. Working with Ken, students, teachers, and cultural partners was fun! It was like playing in a sandbox. And this was because Ken brought a sense of wonder to the work and created space for participants, staff, and partners to experiment, learn, and grow together. Through his example, he taught me that it was possible to lead with humility and warmth, creativity and possibility. Whenever I think of Ken, I will always remember how great it felt to share an idea with him. He'd always crack a smile, and with a sparkle in his eye, he'd say, "I like it. Tell me more about that." I miss you, Ken, and I promise to do my best to relate to people with kindness the way you did and do the kind of work that would have brought you joy. Sending my sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

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Cindy VandenBosch - April 10, 2024 at 11:07 AM

WM

“ *Topic: Graveside Service - Ken Struve (11am)*  
*Time: Jan 13, 2024 10:45AM Eastern Time*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

*<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83399066706?pwd=tidiaaxA1ZV8gaZiYBtiXQZHslnrDA.1>*

*Meeting ID: 833 9906 6706*

*Passcode: Struve*

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**Will Metz** - January 09, 2024 at 11:39 PM

LI

“ *<https://youtu.be/ct8uDMrat8E>*

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**Linda** - January 09, 2024 at 09:26 PM

TK

“ *The Khanna's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth D. Struve III.*

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**The Khanna's** - January 08, 2024 at 07:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth D. Struve III.*



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January 08, 2024 at 07:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**John LaCause** - January 07, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

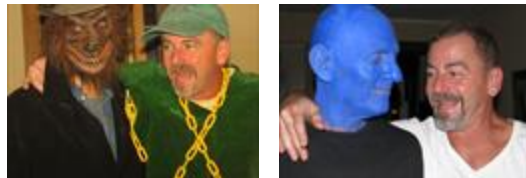


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**Elizabeth LaCause** - January 06, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall

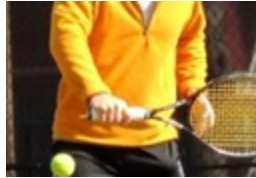


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**Elizabeth LaCause** - January 06, 2024 at 11:43 AM

LI

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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Linda - January 05, 2024 at 08:48 PM