



Hugh Douglas Kerr

December 1, 2021

Doug Kerr (Hugh Douglas Kerr) passed away on December 1 of severe vascular disease. After many years of health complications, Doug fought valiantly to spend a glorious Thanksgiving with his immediate family. They were given the gift of togetherness and then days later Doug left his earthly journey.

Born in Baltimore, MD he attended the McDonough School and then pursued his love of the theater earning a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University. Doug went on to study classical theater in Manchester England. Upon returning to the United States he was accepted and studied at the Actor's Studio in New York City. It was in New York that Doug met GeeDee and the greatest love affair was born. After several years of success in New York Theater his family grew with the birth of their first daughter, Tracy. Doug decided to move his young family to Sarasota.

In Sarasota, Doug's family continued to grow with the birth of their second daughter Julia. He was then privileged to find a new passion in fundraising for various not for profit organizations. Most notably the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art where he served as the first Director of the Ringling Museum Foundation. He had a lot of fun creating the very first Un Gala Gala where he open the doors to all residents of the state. He then went on to put the Sarasota Therapeutic Equestrian Program on the map as the premiere

equestrian therapeutic program for disabled children and initiated programs with the Special Olympics. From there he found his most cherished career destination at the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota County. Doug decided that he would give early retirement a try and consult for various not for profits throughout the state. That didn't last long though as an opportunity to return to his beloved performing arts as Executive Director for the Venice Symphony arose. Doug spent five years with the symphony and was thrilled to assist in the formation of the Venice Institute for the Performing Arts.

Doug is survived by his wife of 45 years, GeeDee Hayden Kerr; his daughter Tracy (Keith Carson) and daughter Julia; and his four grandsons, Owen, William, Benjamin and Henry Carson. Doug also leaves behind his brother, Don Kerr (Babs) and Sister Betsy Kerr of Baltimore, MD and four nieces.

GeeDee, Tracy and Julia invite you to join them in A Celebration of Life service to be held at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota on December 8th at 1pm with a reception to immediately follow at Selby Gardens. A private burial will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In lieu of flowers, Doug has requested that donations be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota County, 3100 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34237.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pine Shores Presbyterian Church
6135 Beechwood Ave
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tribute Wall

LI

“ My deepest sympathy to GeeDee and the entire family. Doug was such a kind hearted and giving man. I loved my time working with him on the telethons for cardinal Mooney high school so many years ago. Doug was always there with a helping hand. He will be greatly missed. -Lisa I.

Lisa Intagliata - December 06, 2021 at 09:56 PM

PJ

“ So sorry to hear. My condolences to GeeDee and family. I was a member of the symphony board during the time he was executive director. Doug was such a delight to work with. He was collaborative, supportive and positive. He made many contributions to the community and will be missed by so many.

Pam Johnson - December 04, 2021 at 08:10 AM

KP

“ Ah Douglas, we are surely gonna miss you. That wonderful voice, your starched shirts, your sense of humor, your laundry folding and your great bar-tending. Also, your spoons-playing and cigar smoking with Kenny! You and Geed made all the great Sarasota Thanksgivings feel like fine dining with spirited debate along with tear-jerking stories. We will miss Gee Dee's thoroughbred because for more than 45 years they were a fabulous team. We are deeply sorry for your passing but not sorry knowing that you are now 'painless'!! Meet you at the bar in Heaven, Doug !! Our love and hugs go out to Geed, Julia, Tracy and her entire family.

kathleen porter-nielsen - December 03, 2021 at 10:54 PM

PA

“ *The first time I met Doug we were at a Hayden family party. It may have been an engagement party for GeeDee and Doug. I'm not sure but I believe Doug was meeting the extended family for the first time. He sat down at the piano, played and sang a song. It was a lot of fun and I thought he was very talented. I was very impressed. It is a great memory that I will hold dear forever. GeeDee and family, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. Love Patsy Leis Walsh*

Pat - December 03, 2021 at 01:30 PM