



James F. "Jim" Struna

May 11, 1942 - October 22, 2025

James F. "Jim" Struna, age 83, of Mentor, Ohio, passed away on October 22, 2025. He was born on May 11, 1942, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jim began his teaching career in 1965 in Bakersfield, CA. After returning to Ohio in 1966, he taught at Mentor High School. Soon after, he began his 30-year teaching career at Lakeland Community College, where he was a well-loved and respected professor.

His commitment to public service was evident through his many years on Mentor City Council, where he represented Ward 4 beginning in 1980. In 1990, he was elected City Council President, serving in that role until 1996. He continued to serve as a Councilman-at-Large until his retirement in 2001.

Jim found a love for sailing when he began as a crew member in 1980 at Mentor Harbor Yachting Club. He continued to sail and race there after becoming a member in 1996. Jim was also an avid reader who passed along his love of reading and commitment to lifelong inquiry to his daughters. He loved to garden. Above all, Jim was a devoted loving husband and father.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judith (nee Lentz); daughters, Kathryn Struna and Stephanie Struna (Christopher Sparks); and sister, Susan Subel. Jim loved all of his many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Isabell Struna and brother-in-law, Richard Subel.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of the Western Reserve, P.O. Box 72101, Cleveland 44192; online at www.hospicewr.org.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center

8466 Mentor Avenue

Mentor, OH 44060

(440) 255-3401

ajs@brunners.com

<https://www.brunners.com/>

Tribute Wall

DR

“ I first met Jim in 1975 when he was my prof at Lakeland for a political science class. The topic turned to who has authority to enforce laws. He asked the class what would be the appropriate response should an unauthorized person try to stop somebody from jaywalking. Being a cocky nineteen year old, I flipped Jim the finger. He laughed until he cried.

For the next fifty years, our standard greeting when seeing each other was the one-finger salute. He laughed every time.

I'll miss that.

On the plus side, Jan and I won't have to vacate his seat at the bar or a table at the club when Jim and Judy show up. Fortunately, we eat early and they show up at 7:00. Judy... there will always be a seat for you with us. We're so sorry for your loss.

Damon Rodehorst - October 30, 2025 at 10:29 AM

AV

“ Amy V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James F. "Jim" Struna.

Amy V. - October 29, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.



October 29, 2025 at 08:29 AM

BL

“ Brian Lake planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James F. "Jim" Struna.

Brian Lake - October 29, 2025 at 08:29 AM

CL

“ Jim always sat so quietly with a smile while Judy and I spoke of our pool days. It will be strange next summer not to have be there smiling at Judy.

Cathy Lincoln - October 28, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.



October 28, 2025 at 02:29 PM

“ It was with great sadness that I read of Jim's death. He was an amazing, bright, funny, and gifted person. He often spoke of his wife and children with endearments. Hopefully, knowing how your husband/father/friend enriched countless lives will bring you comfort and peace as you journey through your grief. I am so sorry.

For some reason, just a few weeks ago, I thought of "Jimmy Milk Toast Struna" (as he occasionally called himself in class at LCC). I attended LCC after I had children and decided to pursue a nursing degree. He teased me about being a "seasoned older student," even though I was in my early 20s. I so enjoyed his classes as he made every topic come to life with interesting stories. One day, Mr. Struna came into class and started questioning the students about the Bolsheviks—the majority of the class had no idea what he was talking about. Well, we were given a lesson (!) about the Bolsheviks being a faction of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party, which eventually took power in Russia in the early 1900s. I think the entire class time was spent on the Bolsheviks, and dang, if that wasn't an essay question on our next exam!

He never seemed to be in a hurry, but rather walked the halls of Lakeland at a slow cadence, and never failed to ask me if I was going to a fire. He made my classes enjoyable, had a rich sense of humor, and knew how to teach. I attended other colleges for additional years, but Mr. Struna has always remained one of my favorites. I so appreciated him and smiled when I thought of him.

I attended a few Mentor City Council meetings and was present when a city resident with upset with Jim about property zoning. The resident, speaking at the podium, stated his father told him to never trust anyone who didn't wear socks with his shoes - and Jim stuck up his foot to show he wore no socks, but stated he was very trustworthy. It got a chuckle.

You've more than earned your peace in death, Jim Struna. You gave so much more than so many others. Thank you!

Peggy Rickard (Phoenix, AZ) - October 28, 2025 at 06:22 AM

WP

“ *From the first time we met at Mentor Harbor, Jim always had a smile and a joke to share. We will miss his good humor.*

Walter and Kelley Payerl - October 27, 2025 at 09:32 PM



“ *My family was very sad to hear of Jim's passing. We lived next door for 13 yrs. and shared many memories. Judy, Catherine and Stephanie, very sorry for your loss. Love, Ronnie, Tricia and Tracy*

Ronnie Lynch-Forte - October 27, 2025 at 08:24 PM

VF

“ *Veronica F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James F. "Jim" Struna.*

Veronica F. - October 27, 2025 at 08:13 PM

LB

“ *I remember Jim on Mentor City Council for years. He was very respected among the five members. I live across the street from Jim's home and often saw him driving from his home down Dorrwood or Marjory. When ever he saw me he would always say "Hi Neighbor". I am very sad that he is gone. Our neighborhood and Mentor will never be the same.*

Lawrence and Markay Boros - October 27, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.*



October 27, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *Dear Judy and family,*

It is hard to find the words that might bring you comfort at this sad time, but please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing your your beloved Jim.

Jim was a unique blend of intellect, charm, humor, strength and spirit. Jim and I raced together on one of Bela Ballo's many sailboats. He was a good crew and a good guy, who kept us laughing. He will be fondly remembered in many ways. He was a classic man who loved you, his family and friends with an unbridled sense of loyalty and caring.

I am thinking of you all with my most sincere thoughts of sympathy, and wishing you peace of mind and a healing heart.

In friendship and caring,

Michelle Odell, Fellow Member MHYC

Michelle Odell - October 26, 2025 at 06:40 PM

MP

“ Jim was a sweetheart! Always quick with a smile and a hug. He will missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy and her family. David and Mary Ann

Mary Ann Peace - October 26, 2025 at 05:08 PM

PB

“ We can picture that young face in front of the classroom or in those Driver's Ed cars at MHS back in our day. Sending to you our condolences from the MHS Class of '71.
Pat Dempsey Burkholder

Pat Burkholder - October 26, 2025 at 04:49 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.



October 26, 2025 at 04:02 PM

DP

“ Doug and Jane Price planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James F. "Jim" Struna.

Doug and Jane Price - October 26, 2025 at 04:02 PM

SB

“ *Mr. Struna always greeted me with the warmest smile. I will always remember how much he loved his Friday night dinners with his lovely wife at MHYC.* ”



Shelley Banning - October 26, 2025 at 03:49 PM

ML

“ *My deepest condolences. Jim was a leader in the LFA when I started at Lakeland. I eventually became involved in the leadership, and as soon as I proved myself to him, he was always very supportive. We all appreciated him so much. Micki* ”

Micki Long - October 26, 2025 at 01:58 PM

JO

“ *Justin and Amy Owens purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.* ”



Justin and Amy Owens - October 26, 2025 at 12:08 PM

MP

“ I majored in Struna, as he would tell me. Only 2 people passing ever hit as hard. Steve Irwin and Jim Struna. Jim taught me to dig deep into history and apply facts. He started my education and I haven't stopped yearning for more and more. Because of him. He got me to embrace Star Trek Next Generation when I was a diehard Original Trekkie. There are so few people in this world that impress me. He was always one of them. Always will be. Hugs and best wishes to the family. How very lucky of you to have had this wonderful soul in your lives. He loved you all so much

Mary Paris - October 26, 2025 at 10:29 AM

GW

“ As one of his long time sailing buds we shared some great times at the regattas and race week at PIB. One of my earliest memories of Jim was on race days up at the islands taking a morning dip off the dock at the East Point cottages to "shake out the cobwebs." Great guy, but memory not to good, he always left his wallet on the boat LOL. He will be missed. Condolences to Judy and the girls.

Gary Wyman - October 26, 2025 at 10:02 AM

RG

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Jim growing up in Mentor and the honor to work at the City of Mentor with him. He will be missed!

Ron Graham - October 26, 2025 at 09:04 AM

GF

“ A friend for almost 50 years. I'll miss running into you every 2-4 years and sharing our common thoughts.

Gary Fulton - October 26, 2025 at 06:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James F. "Jim" Struna.



October 25, 2025 at 08:27 PM



“ *bill and laura frissell* planted a </store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518>>Memorial Tree in honor of James F. "Jim" Struna.

bill and laura frissell - October 25, 2025 at 08:27 PM