



# Rowan Ethridge

OCT 8, 1995 - JUN 8, 2023



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## Rowan Ethridge

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**R**owan "Gene" Genevieve Ethridge, A DC/Baltimore theatre lighting electrician, lighting designer, and painter dies at age 27.

Rowan "Gene" Genevieve Ethridge of Arnold passed away unexpectedly and of unknown causes on Thursday, June 8. They were 27 years old and their pronouns were they/them.

Born in Takoma Park, Rowan grew up in Greenbelt, Maryland before moving to Arnold, Maryland at the age of four. They were the child of Jeffrey Noel Ethridge, a retired Northrop Grumman software engineer and Kimberly Hyland Ethridge, website manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. They are also survived by their brother, Kevin Alexander Ethridge, of Seattle, Washington.

Born in 1995, Rowan was known from childhood as a hugger and flower lover. Their smile was infectious and as a youngster their mother's boss nicknamed them "Sunshine." That personality continued throughout their brief life, and they are remembered by friends and colleagues as an amazing person who brightened the lives of everyone they touched with their kind and loving nature. They were the type of person who, rather than shying away from a homeless person asking for money, would carry a pastry or fruit with them to hand out, or take them to the local 7-11 and tell them to get whatever they wanted.

Rowan loved to dance and sing and took dance lessons from a young age. They attended St. John's Elementary School in Severna Park, where they also participated in Girl Scouts, before transferring to Broadneck Elementary School, where they participated in music and chorus and had the opportunity to take their love of space to NASA Space Camp on a school field trip. Rowan continued in chorus at Broadneck High School, and became involved in theater, where they appeared in several musical productions and worked in stage tech. A talented singer, they also performed with the Annapolis Chorale for a short time. From 2011 to 2017 they performed in and worked tech crew with 2nd Star Productions at the Bowie Playhouse. But performing turned out not to be their main love, not surprising for a teenager who got most excited on their birthday



## Obituary

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over presents of an electric drill and steel-toed boots. They attended Anne Arundel Community College for Theater Arts and moved on to receive their Bachelor's of Science in Theater Design and Production from Towson University. While at Towson, they were known for their friendships, humor, beautiful voice, and stage tech savvy. As a senior, they were also remembered for their "dream" role--a powerful and impactful portrayal of St. Jimmy in a student production of "Green Day's American Idiot"--and for the joy they brought fellow actors and crew and the stronger friendships formed.

After college, Rowan entered the apprentice program at Olney Theater Center as an electrician's apprentice in 2021 and 2022. Since completing their apprenticeship, they have worked as a DC/Baltimore lighting electrician, lighting designer, painter, and scenic charge for theaters including Baltimore's Center Stage, The Strand Theater, Gala Hispanic Theater, Studio Theatre, and The Dance Loft on 14. They loved crafting stage environments and atmospheres through scenography and working in devised theatre, whether it be plays or dance, and loved to explore the human condition through color and movement.

A promising, loving, joyful life was cut short on June 8th. Rowan will be terribly missed, but we are blessed for the joy and light (of all kinds) they brought to those around them while they were with us. Rowan's legacy for those who knew them was to inspire their best selves, and their memory will continue to inspire friends and family in the pursuit of bettering oneself, to have compassion for those you don't understand, and to be fiercely loyal to your authentic self.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either Native American Lifelines at [nativeamericanlifelines.org](http://nativeamericanlifelines.org) or the Annapolis/Anne Arundel County Chapter of PFLAG at [pflagannapolis.org](http://pflagannapolis.org).



# Events

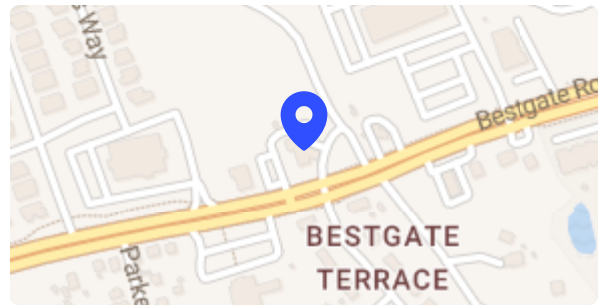
**Rowan Ethridge**  
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## Gathering

**Thursday**, June 15, 2023

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM ET

**Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**  
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401

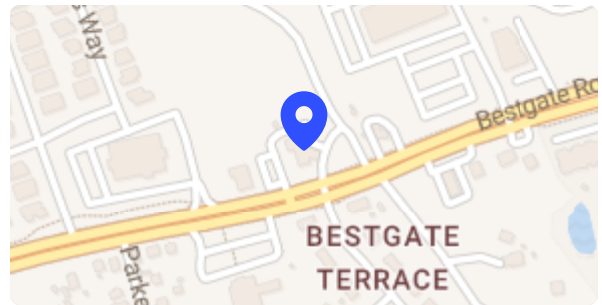


## Time of Shared Memories

**Thursday**, June 15, 2023

12:30 PM ET

**Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**  
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401





# Tribute Wall

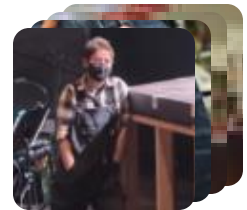
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**Alex Wiemeyer** shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I miss you Ro ❤️

September 10 at 2:47 PM



**David Mathis Johnson** posted:

Jill and I are so saddened to learn of Rowan's passing. Our heartfelt condolences to all her family. We only knew them when we made a short film with them as the lead. Their dedication to the craft of acting and joy in doing it brilliantly was infectious and inspirational. That lives on for us.

June 16 at 11:34 AM



**Kim Ethridge** June 17 at 4:47 AM

David - I'm curious - how did you ever hear?



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Ethridge family.

June 15 at 8:44 PM



**Linda Swann** lit a candle in honor of Rowan.

There was nothing not to love about this wonderful human. They had a magic and energy that could light up a room and take you along for the ride. Your light went to black too soon, so I will light a candle in your honor. Hail the traveler.

June 14 at 6:51 PM



**Kim Ethridge** June 15 at 4:05 AM

Thank you so much Linda. I know how much Rowan loved you and you loved them.



# Tribute Wall

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**Loren Barnett** posted:

I feel blessed to have witnessed Rowan's talent on stage and the delight that it provided their mother Kim. My condolences to all of Rowan's family and friends. May all of your memories of them help bring you peace.

June 14 at 12:26 PM



**Kim Ethridge** June 15 at 4:06 AM

Thank you so much Loren.



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Sincerity to the Ethridge family.



June 14 at 11:09 AM



**Sharon** lit a candle in honor of Rowan.

My thoughts are with the Ethridge family at this time of terrible loss and in the days to come. Hugs to you. Sharon Goetz

June 14 at 8:58 AM



**Kim Ethridge** June 15 at 4:07 AM

Thank you so much Sharon!



# Tribute Wall

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**Ariya Hawkins** lit a candle in honor of Rowan.



When I first met Rowan at Olney, we were in the Crawford House kitchen. They were barefoot, wearing flowing pants and earth tones; I saw the kind of person who was rooted. Grounded and comfortable in their own being, and able to build comfort around them. And people quickly felt comfortable around Rowan. This was someone who was warm and down to Earth, but also had an edge and boldness that couldn't be pushed aside. You could see it in their sense of style, their sense of humor, the diligence they put into their work. We didn't spend a lot of time with one another, but the time that we spent was in little ways, communal ways. It was in sharing space on the stove while we cooked our dinners, it was at cookouts where we'd gather and talk about the joys and trials of work, it was in late-night conversations where groups of us would meet and laugh and sit under the stars; Rowan's energy was always grounded. What a beautiful person, what a creative soul, and what a powerful presence. I send deep Love, and pray for a gentle and compassionate healing process for the Ethridge Family and all of the people in Rowan's circle.

June 13 at 8:18 AM



**Kim Ethridge** June 15 at 4:08 AM

Thank you Ariya for your words and for being a friend to Rowan at Olney.



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Ethridge family.



June 13 at 8:59 AM



**Kellie Fiala** posted:

Thinking of the Ethridge Family in this time of incredible loss. My thoughts are with you now and in the days ahead.

June 13 at 8:32 AM



**Kim Ethridge** June 15 at 4:09 AM

Kellie - thank you so much for your words and thoughts. I'm so touched.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ethridge family.

June 13 at 8:18 AM





Alex Wiemeyer shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

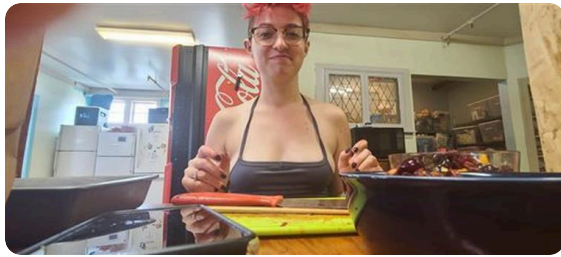
September 10 at 2:47 PM





# Media

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# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rowan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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