



# **Dr. Larry A. Viterna**

NOV 6, 1955 - OCT 12, 2025



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## **Dr. Larry A. Viterna**

NOV 6, 1955 - OCT 12, 2025

### **I**n Loving Memory of Dr. Larry A. Viterna November 6, 1955 – October 12, 2025

Dr. Larry A. Viterna, 69, of Vermillion, Ohio, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2025, after a courageous battle with colon cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Hart, Michigan, on November 6, 1955, to Roy and Esther Viterna, Larry grew up with an endless curiosity and a natural gift for invention. That spark carried him through an extraordinary life devoted to innovation, clean energy, and the betterment of others.

Larry spent 34 years with NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, serving in a range of roles including lead engineer, Division Chief of the Commercial Technology Program, and business development leader. During his time at NASA, he was part of the pioneering team that developed the world's first multi-megawatt wind turbines and made major advancements in space station power systems, helping design and improve systems that provided reliable energy for spacecraft and exploration missions. He also led early work on hybrid electric bus systems, helping to advance cleaner transportation technologies that reduced emissions and improved fuel efficiency. Larry led aerodynamic research and development, supported structural design, and conducted field testing, work that paved the way for modern wind energy technology.

His groundbreaking Viterna Method, first published in the early 1980s, endures as one of the most influential aerodynamic models in the field, used globally to maximize turbine blade efficiency and improve structural calculations for wind turbines, helicopters, drones, underwater turbines, and even exploratory planetary drones.

Larry co-founded Nautica Windpower in 2007 and served as Chief Technology Officer and Vice President, working alongside his beloved wife Karen, who serves as President and CEO. Together, they dedicated themselves to developing advanced technologies for the future of offshore wind energy. Under Larry's technical leadership, Nautica patented a new class of floating wind turbine,



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known as SEALIFT, designed to generate affordable electricity in a sustainable manner by reducing weight and complexities to benefit both costs and the lives of future generations. His pioneering contributions are recognized by the Oceanic Network, which bestows the Viterna Award for Engineering Excellence annually in his honor, an accolade he accepted with deep humility.

Yet for all his professional achievements, Larry's greatest pride and joy were found at home. He was the devoted husband of Karen, loving father to Jason Viterna, Jamie (Andrew) Skreen, Veronica (Brian) Seman, John (Alexis) Grasse, and Hillary (Troy) Grasse, and a joyful grandfather to Jack Skreen, Amelia Skreen, Teagan Seman, Lincoln Grasse, Kazley Fisher, Kayden Fisher, each of whom brought him immeasurable happiness. He is survived by brothers Mike (Betty) Viterna, Bill (Pam) Viterna, many nieces, nephews, and cousins whom he cherished deeply.

Larry will be remembered for his selflessness, humor, humility, and unwavering support for those he loved. Truly a "big kid at heart," he approached every challenge with optimism and determination, lifting up everyone around him. He was a mentor, inventor, and friend whose legacy will live on in both the technologies he created and the lives he touched.

Visitation is Friday November 7, 2025, from 10 AM – 2 PM at Sunset Memorial Chapel, 6245 Columbia Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070, where the funeral service will follow at 2 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Colon Cancer Coalition. Colon cancer Coalition is dedicated to raising screening rates and research for a cure.




# Events

**Dr. Larry A. Viterna**

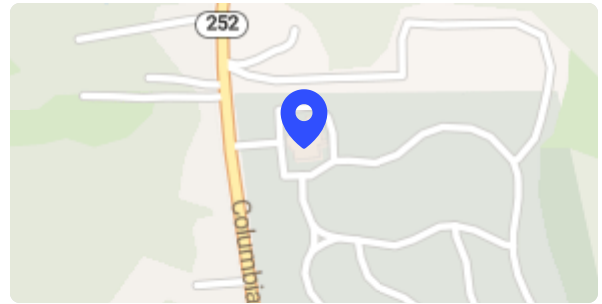
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## Visitation


 **Friday**, November 7, 2025


 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM ET

 **Sunset Chapel**  
6245 Columbia Road, North Olmsted OH 44070

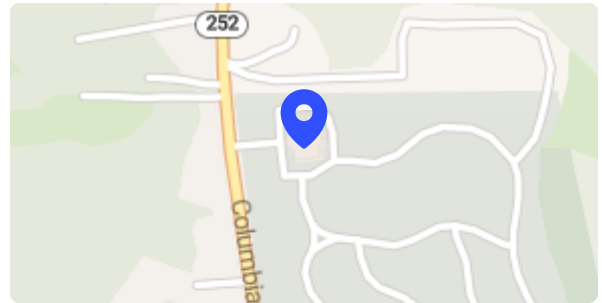


## Memorial

 **Friday**, November 7, 2025

 2:00 PM ET

 **Sunset Chapel**  
6245 Columbia Road, North Olmsted OH 44070





# Tribute Wall

**Dr. Larry A. Viterna**

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**Robert Kistemaker** posted:

My sincere condolences to Karen, Larry's kids, grandkids and all his family. I had the good fortune of befriending & working for Larry at NASA when he was the Chief of the Commercial Tech Ofc. I knew Larry to be a good, decent & humble man even though he was this brilliant engineer who had such awesome technical achievements. He was a good storyteller & we had more than a few laughs in those days as he had such a (surprisingly) raucous sense of humor. He graciously & generously helped & guided many of us in those days to grow & develop in our NASA careers, especially me. Larry was a wonderful, successful and caring man. I was glad to know him & I will miss him a great deal. - Bob Kistemaker.

November 6 at 5:02 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 7:52 AM

Bob, thank you for your kindness and sharing. Your writings encapsulate him well and are a comfort. -Karen and Family



**Terry & Teri Caudill & Tara Jones** sent a Serene Retreat to the Viterna family.



November 6 at 12:36 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 7:56 AM

The planter is beautiful! Intend to let it thrive under my care! Karen



**Terry & Teri Caudill & Tara Jones** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Larry.



November 6 at 12:36 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 7:54 AM

We appreciate the trees planted in Larry's memory! Karen and Family



# Tribute Wall

**Dr. Larry A. Viterna**

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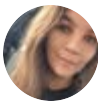


**Beth Alheit** lit a candle in honor of Larry.

I only knew Larry from cleaning his and Karen's home. But the short time I knew him, he was always very friendly, smiling and had a positive outlook. One time while making a cup of coffee, he kindly offered me a cup of coffee which was very sweet.



October 22 at 4:33 PM



**Olive Gard** posted:

My heart goes out to all of you. I am so very sorry for your loss

October 18 at 1:53 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 7:57 AM

Olivia, Thank you for your caring support! Karen and Family



**Heath Family** posted:

Jason, sending my deepest condolences to you and your family, and keeping you in my thoughts while you celebrate a great life of your father.

October 15 at 3:18 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 7:59 AM

To the Heath Family, We appreciate your support. The Viterna Family



**Thomas Kerslake** posted:

My condolences to the Viterna family. Larry was such a warm, kind, funny & smart guy who folks wanted to be around & have on your team. I know he will be missed by so many friends & loved ones. At the same time, I trust his love & many contributions will live on for many years to come.- Tom Kerslake (NASA friend)

October 15 at 2:13 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 8:05 AM

Tom, Thank you for sharing Larry's personal presence on his NASA colleagues. It was a special combination of brilliance and spirit that made him so rare and wonderful. Greatly appreciate your sharing, Karen and Family



# Tribute Wall

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**Lauren D.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Larry.



October 15 at 1:26 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 8:06 AM

Lauren, We appreciate the trees planted in Larry's memory! -Karen and Family



**Marie Glover** posted:

To Larry's family and loved ones:I'm remembering Larry as a high school classmate and friend. He was always so humble and kind, lead an amazing life and, while he was way out of my league, he treated me as though I was out of his. It was almost funny. I'm so sorry for your enormous loss.Marie Glover

October 15 at 12:41 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 8:10 AM

Marie, He had a fantastic way of letting others feel valued and never touted his own feats. It seemed so effortless and natural on his part. Thank you for your support. -Karen and Family



**Mark Viterna** posted:

I hope this isn't too inappropriate, but it is truly the best memory I have. I was hanging out with Larry and Karen and we were doing putt putt, or something along those lines, and I remember talking in the parking lot with them, and there was this huge truck on jacked up tires (and I think it might have had a smoke stack too) and Larry, with his classic humor style, made a comment regarding the owners, shall we say, "endowment". And I laughed the hardest I ever laughed. For someone who was a scientist and engineer who pioneered the Viterna Method in groundbreaking wind technology, you probably would never know what he was really like. Just a funny and sweet guy if you really knew him; but also, to the outside world, an award winning scientist. -Mark Viterna

October 15 at 12:12 PM



**Karen Larry Viterna** November 17 at 8:13 AM

Mark, Weren't we lucky to have had him? Thank you for sharing! -Karen and the Family



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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