



Juan Andimio Vitali

June 24, 1962 - February 19, 2024

Juan Andimio Vitali
1962-2024

Whether singing opera while stuck in traffic, traveling the world with his wife Katie, or working as an Army nuclear engineer and Chief of the Nuclear Power Branch, Dr. Juan A. Vitali lived life with an unrivaled sense of passion. On February 19, Juan Andimio Vitali, 61, passed away in Falls Church, VA, from renal failure.

Born on June 24, 1962, in Caracas, Venezuela to Italian immigrant parents, Dr. Vitali grew up immersed in his Italian heritage. It was through the Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church in Caracas that he developed many close friendships with other children of Italian immigrants...friendships that he maintained throughout adulthood.

Juan first became interested in nuclear power because of the 1979 Three Mile Island Accident in Pennsylvania, the site of the most serious accident in US commercial nuclear power plant operating history. University of Florida offered him a scholarship and he traveled from Venezuela to begin an illustrious career in nuclear power. At UF, Dr. Vitali earned a BS (Nuclear Engineering, 1984), MA (Engineering, 1987), and PhD (Engineering Physics/Nuclear Engineering, 1992). He later went on to receive a Certificate in Public

Leadership (Brookings Institution, 2016), MS in National Resource Strategy, National Defense University (2013), and was a Harvard Senior Executive Fellow (2018).

Dr. Vitali began at the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the Director of Operational Testing Evaluation of Live Fire Testing. He served as Division Chief of Integrated Logistics Support HQDA G44M overseeing acquisition programs for the HQDA G4. He also served as Strategist and Chief of Future Operations/Strategy Division at HQDA G-43/5/7 where he was responsible for integrating future operations capabilities, concepts and strategies for the Army G-4 including PESTEL analysis of mobile nuclear power plants for ground operations.

From March-November 2023, Dr. Vitali was at the White House as Assistant Director, Nuclear Energy Innovation, Office of Science and Technology Policy. Until his death, Dr. Vitali was Chief of the Nuclear Power Branch, Office of the Chief of Engineers. He not only led a team of engineers to shape conditions for the adoption of nuclear power by the Army, he was also the chief concept architect for the development of mobile nuclear power plant for ground operations. Two teaching stints at Georgia Tech and University of South Carolina rounded out his 30-year career executing defense acquisition, environmental impacts and remediation, operational logistics, and nuclear power engineering.

In 2000, Juan met his true love, Kathryn Bowler. Juan and Katie liked to say an Angel brought them together. They married on March 23, 2002 and spent the next 22 years traveling the world (Australia, Qatar, Italy, Venezuela, and Aruba to name a few), watching the Red Sox, and caring for their fur-babies Rosie, Olivia, and Gracie. Juan embraced Katie with loving tenderness as his partner in all things. And Katie embraced Juan, caring for him as he battled Crohn's disease for 20+ years and through more than 30 surgeries. Two years

ago, Juan was diagnosed with End Stage Kidney Disease (Stage 4), requiring dialysis three times a week and the hope for a kidney transplant. And throughout it all, Katie was his calm in a storm, his chief medical advocate, and forever a symbol of hope and courage.

Whether home cooking Italian food or snorkeling the barrier reef with Katie, Juan's zest for life, quiet intellect, and bravery despite harrowing health issues, shone through. Friendships were paramount to him. He maintained friendships from childhood along with new friends he met at UF and throughout his career with the army. Friends like Virgil Peoples in particular.

Juan was preceded in death by his mother, Maria Viteldzi, and father, Bruno Vitali. He is survived by beloved wife Katie, sisters and brothers-in law, Sally and Bob Gartner, Eileen and Dan Cutrona, Ted and Lisa Bowler, brother Nazareno (Elizabeth), and extended nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/memorial-juan-vitali>.

The memorial mass can be watch via livestream here (<https://youtube.com/live/zYS6tvK512w?feature=share>).

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAR 15. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
8710 Mount Vernon Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
<https://www.gs-cc.org/>

Tribute Wall

TK

“Katie, so sorry for your loss! May you have peace from such fond memories of a life well lived. I know Juan will be missed immeasurably. Hope you are hanging in there. Terri Kocher

Terri Kocher - July 01, 2024 at 03:21 PM

KV

Thank you, Terri!

KATIE VITALI - April 27, 2025 at 08:21 PM

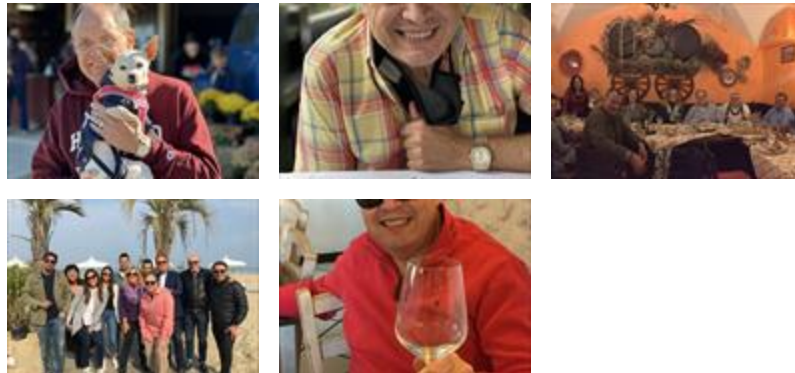


“I didn't know Juan extremely well, but he was a great friend to all. I met him through a mutual friend, Gio. We visited Juan in PCB, and had a great time. Juan welcomed both of us into his home with open arms and a home cooked meal. A few years later, I went to visit Juan for about ten days in DC. I got to meet Katie, and again Juan was so welcoming, even though we were basically only casual friends. I am glad I got to spend that time with him, and will always treasure the memories from that trip. What a guy! He will be truly missed by SO MANY. Thanks for all the memories, Juan, and may you have eternal peace and happiness.

Ashley Hill - June 05, 2024 at 01:27 PM

KA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Katie - April 14, 2024 at 10:56 AM

RO

“ My dear childhood friend Gianni (as we used to call you), I am going to miss talking to you. You were always available to chat about anything from politics to looking for ways to help our school teachers, friends, or actually anyone. Thanks for always keeping in touch.

You will always be in our heart. Your childhood friend from Nuestra Señora de Pompei. Rosanna

Katie, so sorry for your loss. He always spoke of you as his angel. Hugs 🤍

Rosanna Leccese Otondo - March 15, 2024 at 09:58 AM

EC

“ Eileen Cutrona lit a candle in memory of Juan Andimio Vitali



Eileen Cutrona - March 15, 2024 at 06:18 AM

EC

May you rest in peace, Juan. Your generosity, kindness, grit and fight have been admired by so many of us, near and afar throughout the years. And your deep love for Katie has been cherished by all. #TeamVitali represents courage, strength and grace. Rest easy...xoxo

Eileen Cutrona - March 15, 2024 at 06:34 AM

CD

“ Dear @Katie Vitale, big family Bowler and Virgil, today we are all going to be together even if we are far away in other countries divided by the ocean.

However, remember that our hearts are not divided from you! We are a one family and as such we are linked to you with love and with an invisible thread made of hearts.

Juan was everything as we can read, a true gentleman, good and caring husband, excellent man, humble, hard worker, honest, lovely person and some other millions of good things he was. Someone you could really on. His love to Katie and her family and to his friends like Virgil and the Pompei group was extraordinary.

We really miss him so much. 🙏 Condolences to all of you May he rest in peace 🙏

Ciao Juan nuestro amigo precioso que descanses en paz en una valle llena de amor en el paraíso donde te mereces estar.

Te amamos ❤️



Carla De Donato - March 15, 2024 at 04:02 AM

JC

“ My deepest condolences on your loss.

Jim Coady - March 14, 2024 at 08:32 AM