



John Patrick Sirna

April 17, 1933 - December 8, 2025

ROCK HALL, MD – John Patrick Sirna, a dedicated engineer, world traveler, and cherished family patriarch known affectionately as "Pop Pop" passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, December 8, at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton. He was 92 years old.

Born on April 17, 1933, in Cumberland, MD, John was the eighth of ten children born to the late Salvatore and Rosa Sirna of Ridgeley, West Virginia. He is survived by his beloved younger sister, Margaret Owens, and her husband, Harold.

John pursued higher education at West Virginia University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1956. His education led to a distinguished career marked by innovation and service. He began his professional life in the U.S. Army, applying his skills to the design of missiles. Following his military service, John transitioned into roles as an Aerospace Engineer and later specialized in high-tech engineering for pharmaceutical manufacturing and research facilities. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to found his own successful firm, Project Engineering Services (P.E.S.).

In his vibrant next phase of life, John embraced retirement with the same enthusiasm he applied to his career. A true waterman at heart, he shared his love of the Chesapeake Bay by teaching his grandchildren the arts of sailing and boat building. He was a gracious host who presided over countless spirited crab feasts and was well-known among friends and family for his appreciation of eating oysters. John embraced a lively discussion with anyone

willing to engage and maintained an insatiable thirst for knowledge throughout his life. John cherished his friends and participated in many community organizations.

He is predeceased by his wife of 42 years, Anne Lorimer Sirna. Together, they traveled the world, creating a lifetime of memories. Anne happily adopted his passion for the sea, serving as his devoted "first mate" in both life and on the water. John was also predeceased by his stepson, Andrew Malcolm Thomson (survived by his wife, Jennifer).

John's legacy is carried on by his large and loving blended family. He is survived by his children and stepchildren: Graeme Thomson (Lynn), Hunter Thomson (Debi), Christopher Sirna (Mary Hyland), Roxiann Sirna, George Thomson (Sue), Jeffrey Sirna, Clark Thomson (Ashlynn), Liza Bobrow (David), and Otis Thomson (Khin).

He leaves behind twenty-one grandchildren and step-grandchildren who brought immense joy to his life: Christina Cohen, Matthew Cohen (Nicole), Ethan Thomson, Kristi Alexander (Steve), Patrick Thomson (Taylor), Blake Thomson (Kara), Adam Thomson, Noah Thomson, Alexis Myers, Kevin Myers, Darcy Sirna, Dylan Sirna, Devlin Sirna, Alison Thomson, Steve Thomson, Lauren Thomson, Hannah Thomson, Otis Thomson, Jake Bobrow, Zoe Thomson, and Samantha Thomson. He also leaves behind two great-grandchildren, Sofia Alexander and Liam Cohen.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 20, at 11:00 AM at Saint Paul's, Kent, located at 7579 Sandy Bottom Road, Chestertown, MD.

Relatives and friends are invited to a graveside service immediately followed by an interment.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kent County Community Center, 11041 Worton Road, P.O. Box 67, Worton, MD 21678
Phone: 410-778-1948, info@KentParksAndRec.org

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Church Cemetery (Kent)
7579 Sandy Bottom Rd
Chestertown, MD 21620

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Jack Heinefield lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Sima*



Jack Heinefield - March 05 at 02:51 PM

LS

“ *Liz Smith lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Sima*



Liz Smith - December 20, 2025 at 07:24 AM

CM

“ *We have many cherished memories of John and Anne. Meals shared, times sailing, family stories and remembrances. The world is a poorer place and Heaven is enriched by their presence. John did such a wonderful job of carrying on without Anne. Reaching out to the Rock Hall community and beyond, supporting his extended family and sharing hospitality. Our lives have all been enriched by knowing John.*

Connie and Peter Metcalf

Connie Metcalf - December 19, 2025 at 10:32 AM

MR

“ *Maryann & Max Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Sirna*



Maryann & Max Ruehrmund - December 18, 2025 at 02:48 PM

RT

“ *Roni Thomas lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Sirna*



Roni Thomas - December 16, 2025 at 10:09 AM

JH

“Tawn and I have known John for over 30 years. I hired John in 1994 to be my owner agent for a major renovation project at the engineering center in Princeton NJ where I was the general manager. I picked John because he struck me as gentle soul who I could work with and his technical expertise was excellent. John proved me correct and we worked effectively together for the next two years.

During that time we met Anne, visited their home a couple of times and had wonderful times together at their home and sailing on the Chesapeake. We were inspired by how they had raised a large blended family. We were going through some struggles with our son and daughter and John said to me one night in passing: “John, you and Tawn have done the best you can — they will become good people.” I trusted John and it lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. And it became true; both our son and daughter became strong, successful adults.

In 1997 I was transferred back to Houston. We would have probably lost our relationship with John and Anne had it not been for John letting me know the lot next to theirs was for sale. We always loved visiting Rock Hall and since both our kids were on the East Coast we bought the lot and planned to eventually retire there and even started planning to build a home on the lot. Having the lot gave us reason to visit John and Anne several times a year. Oh, how we enjoyed those times with John and Anne! In 2001, our daughter was married in their back yard and we had the reception in a big tent on our property.

By 2006, both of our kids and their families had moved back to Houston and it was then Tawn said we were staying here. We sold the Rock Hall property but made a commitment to not let our friendship fade. We visited every year and one year had John and Anne come to Houston where we took them by our boat to Galveston where we had a memorable time.

It was our pleasure and honor to have known John, Anne, and their family. John was a model for living the good life; being a loving husband and father. We will not forget him.

John and Tawn Hunka - December 15, 2025 at 03:39 PM

TS

“ *Todd And Diane Smith lit a candle in memory of John Patrick Sirna*



Todd and Diane Smith - December 15, 2025 at 11:12 AM

KB

“ *To the Sirna Family, the past few days have been full of emotions... sadness for the loss of a legend, joy for the memories we created, but most of all, gratitude for having had the honor to love and be loved by such a giant of a man. I will say thank you to the Sirna Family for the rest of my life for sharing Pop Pop with me and my family. Some of my favorite memories are in Rock Hall, on his deck, cheese on the table and wine in hand. But my absolute most treasured memories are witnessing my children with Pop Pop through their lives. My 8 year old Anthony idolized John. Their relationship was a fairytale. In fact, Anthony actually asked for a Pop Pop John themed birthday cake on his 5th birthday. Being a witness to their friendship is one of the great joys of my life. We will keep his memory alive in our home, I will hear “hello, hello, hello” in my ears and the memories he gifted all of us will live in our hearts forever.*



Kristin Borseti - December 12, 2025 at 02:57 PM

GH

“ We were neighbors of John and Anne for many years on Lawton Avenue in Rock Hall. When Anne died, John continued on there, cared for by their huge blended family. Of course John-the-engineer had had the foresight to include an elevator in the home he designed, built, then expanded to accommodate the crowd. John was a lovely man, full of interest and enthusiasm until the very end. I was lucky enough to bump into him in Chestertown just a few weeks ago. He was all John: full of good cheer.

George and Jane Hardy

George Hardy - December 12, 2025 at 01:44 PM

MB

“ *A Life Well-Lived and Loved. Rest Easy Mountaineer. Respectively, WVU Frederick Alumni Chapter.*

Mark A. Boggs - December 11, 2025 at 01:23 PM

AN

“ *I was one of two nurses who worked in the Infusion Clinic in the hospital in Chestertown, and I knew John as my patient for several years. I became very fond of him. He was such an interesting man. He would often share stories of his family, and always would tell us (very excited) who was coming to visit him. One day he surprised us with crab soup from his favorite place, and when I retired he brought me a lovely bottle of wine and a sweet card. Such a thoughtful, dear man . . . I am so sorry for your loss.*

Anne North - December 10, 2025 at 11:00 PM