



# Valerie E Silk

OCT 20, 1950 - SEP 7, 2025



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## **Valerie E Silk**

OCT 20, 1950 - SEP 7, 2025

**V**alerie E. Silk, 74, of Largo, Florida, went into the presence of her Savior, Jesus Christ, on September 7, 2025.

Valerie was born on October 20, 1950 in St. Petersburg, FL. She is survived by her brothers John Silk, Jr. and Steve Silk (spouse Nancy), and her sisters Bonnie Rogers (spouse Glenn), Libby Barr (spouse George), Minnie Anderson (spouse Bob), and Ruth Harsham (spouse Doug). She was predeceased by her sister Dee Riber and parents John and Vivien Silk.

Valerie was a devoted member of Christ The King Presbyterian Church, Seminole, Florida, where she spent many very cherished years in community with the congregation serving in their prayer ministry and Bible study groups. Her time in that congregation was precious to her.

Her professional life was quite varied — starting out of high school as a switch board operator in the 1960's in St. Petersburg, FL, backpacking across the country, ending up in Hawaii where she, and a partner opened a Nautilus gym.

Though not an athlete herself, it was her association with that gym which lead her into the world of triathlon races. In 1981, Valerie was established as Race Director and CEO of what became arguably one of the most famous international triathlon events in the world, The Ironman Championship. Throughout her time at the helm, Valerie exponentially grew and improved the race, ultimately selling the entity in 1990. In 1999 Valerie was inducted into the Ironman Hall Of Fame. She was beloved by the contestants during the years she presided, and was in contact with many of them until her passing.

Valerie brought her life full-circle in the early 1990's when she chose to move back to her birthplace of St. Petersburg, FL to rejoin her many siblings and parents. She cared lovingly and selflessly for members of her family many years, finding fulfillment in caring for others in her life. She often stated that she would not have traded that opportunity for anything.



## Obituary

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She worked briefly as a charitable events organizer for Suncoast Hospice as well as a brief employment at The Eye Institute in St. Petersburg and in her recent years she spent most of her time serving in her church leading a church-wide prayer ministry among many other engagements.

Valerie was an elegant, statuesque, woman with not only the leadership qualities and attention to detail that allowed her to form and grow a worldwide and currently running, well-respected triathlon, but contrasted those qualities with a sense of humility and a desire to serve others.




She was a devoted “dog mom” to four very spoiled and well-loved black Labs and two equally spoiled and loved cats. She was a hostess extraordinaire who made anyone entering her home feel as though the entire visit was tailored just to them and revolved around them — because it truly was. What a vastly talented woman.

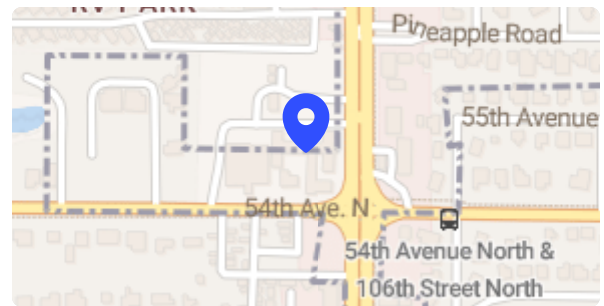
Her passing leaves a deep void in the lives of those who knew her, but her example of faith, love of God, and a devotion to prayer carry on as an immeasurable inspiration.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to either Valerie's church, [Christ the King Presbyterian Church](#) or [Suncoast Hospice](#).






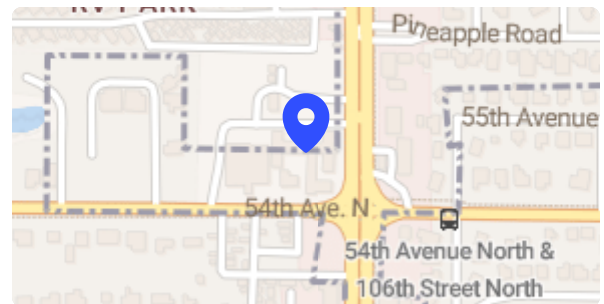
### Visitation

-  **Friday**, September 12, 2025
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **Christ the King Presbyterian Church**  
5400 Seminole Blvd, Seminole FL 33772






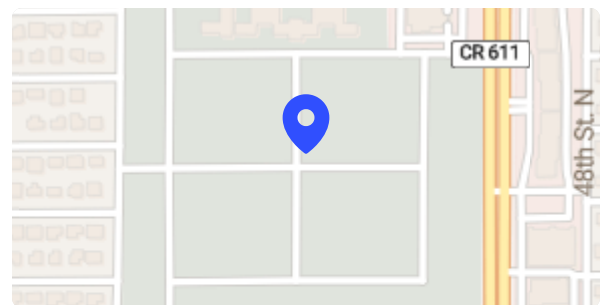
### Funeral Service

-  **Friday**, September 12, 2025
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
-  **Christ the King Presbyterian Church**  
5400 Seminole Blvd, Seminole FL 33772





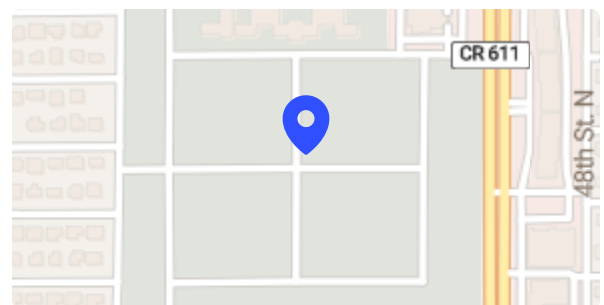
### Entombment

-  **Friday**, September 12, 2025
-  12:30 PM ET
-  **Memorial Park Cemetery**  
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709



### Cemetery Details

-  **Memorial Park Cemetery**  
5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709
-  **(727) 369-8228**





# Tribute Wall

**Valerie E Silk**

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**April Van Ert** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Valerie introduced me to Joseph Campbell, which informed an important part of my life. It's been the greatest honour of my life that she entrusted me with the North American license for the first Ironman on the mainland, Ironman Canada. Lynn van Dove



September 11 at 10:46 PM



**Libby Barr** posted:

Sweet sis. You lived a full life. My greatest thoughts of you are your selflessness and how you cared for others. And how gracious you were. There will never be a time I don't think of you, celebrate you and love you. Val, you fought hard. We saw you. To my sweet sis, you ended well. I know you heard the words "Well done Val." Rest in Him now. I love you. Libby

September 11 at 12:05 PM



**Ron Soloway** posted:

For my friend Val: On Death and Life Out of death's sadness must come a strength- A strength to realize that if sadness is there gladness must have preceded it. Then really sadness at death is not so bad- for the gladness before must mean That the life had been worth living.

September 9 at 11:24 AM



April Van Ert shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 11 at 10:46 PM





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

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



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