



## Victor Michael Rentel

November 4, 1934 - April 14, 2022

Rentel, Victor Michael 1934-2022 Vic, of Westerville, Ohio, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at The OSU Wexner Medical Center on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Predeceased by his parents, Victor Albert Rentel and Mary Rentel. Survived by wife M. Allene Rentel, daughters Kathryn Rentel, Michele Rentel and son V. William Rentel, grandchildren Kieran Law, Nia Law, Ewan McKay, Summer McKay and Weston Ginther, brothers Llewelyn Rentel and the Very Reverend Father Daniel Rentel, as well as many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. Calling hours and memorial service will be held on Friday, April 29, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High St, Worthington, OH 43085, 614-885-4006. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 9:30 am at St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church, 2219 Summit Street Columbus, OH 43201, 614-261-6006. Interment following at Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 North High Street, Route 23 North, Lewis Center, Delaware County, Ohio, 43035, 614-888-1805. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The UNICEF USA fund to help the children of Ukraine at <https://www.unicefusa.org/>

Victor was born in 1934 and grew up in a close family in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Altoona High School in 1952 and went on to enlist in the United States Air Force. He served from 1952 to 1956 and was a veteran of the Korean War, honorably discharged. He graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and English

in 1960 and received a Master of Arts in Reading Education Curriculum from the Jersey City State College of New Jersey in 1965. He taught English at Boonton High School in Boonton, New Jersey for a few years. Victor received his doctorate in Education from the College of Education at the University of South Carolina at Columbia in 1969 and started his career as an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Victor moved to The Ohio State University College of Education in 1970 where he served as a Professor and Associate Dean until his retirement in 2005, after which he served as a consultant to the Board of Regents for the Ohio State Department of Education for a number of years. Victor was a respected researcher in the fields of educational psychology, socio-linguistics, and the development of reading and writing in early childhood. He presented and published his work widely. With colleagues, he did groundbreaking research that underpinned the development of the literacy education portion of the children's television programs like Sesame Street. Later in his career, he became involved in international education and worked with colleagues in Japan, Russia, and Indonesia among others. He was a tireless advocate for teacher education, a dedicated mentor to his graduate students and a generous and admired colleague. Victor was defined by his love for writing and research, and even in retirement continued to read widely and pursue scholarly work.

Victor married Allene in 1963 in Boonton, New Jersey and had three children, Kathryn (1964), Michele and Bill (1975). He adored his grandchildren, Kieran, Nia, Ewan, Summer, and Weston, loved spending time with them and was proud of their achievements. He cared deeply for his mother, Mary, treasured his relationship with brothers Lew and Danny, and savored time spent with his extended family throughout his life—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. For the fifty-nine years of their marriage, his loving wife Allene ever remained the Jersey girl who caught his eye.

Victor enjoyed fishing of all types, was an avid baseball fan, and a classical music enthusiast. He was an active parishioner at St. Gregory of Nyssa

Orthodox Church, and volunteered for the Sierra Club. He was a great story teller and an armchair philosopher, loved humor of all sorts, devoured the news, hated yardwork, and despaired of the lack of good bread and Democrats in Ohio. There was no one quite like him, and his absence will be felt deeply.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the medical teams at The OSU Wexner Medical Center for the compassionate care Victor received while in the Surgery Intensive Care Unit.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR **30**. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Christian Church  
2219 Summit Street  
Columbus, OH 43201

# Tribute Wall



“ *Victor Michael Rentel*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *ERIN, MIKE, MASON & JUSTIN purchased the Glorious Grace Bouquet for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.*



**ERIN, MIKE, MASON & JUSTIN** - April 28, 2022 at 03:23 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.*



April 27, 2022 at 06:15 PM



“ *The L'Hommedieu Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.*



**The L'Hommedieu Family** - April 27, 2022 at 03:00 PM

MW

“ Marie & Bob Walter purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



---

**Marie & Bob Walter** - April 27, 2022 at 01:55 PM

DB

“ Dina, Kevin, Zach, Mackenzie & Bradley purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



---

**Dina, Kevin, Zach, Mackenzie & Bradley** - April 27, 2022 at 10:47 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



---

April 25, 2022 at 06:27 PM

BF

“ Butch & Marti Gabriel & family purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



---

**Butch & Marti Gabriel & family** - April 25, 2022 at 11:41 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



April 24, 2022 at 07:43 PM



“ Bernadette Russo, cousin purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



**Bernadette Russo, cousin** - April 24, 2022 at 05:48 PM



“ Bernadette Russo, cousin purchased the Garden Accent - "When someone you love..." for the family of Victor Michael Rentel.



**Bernadette Russo, cousin** - April 24, 2022 at 05:23 PM

“ Dear, dear cousin, Victor...

*Memories galore.*

*Brilliant comes to mind. Unassuming. Respectful of all.  
Sympathetic/Empathetic, (with an explanation if wanted, ("WHY"))  
Whew, I was glad that a 'Presentation' wasn't necessary. you  
KNOW how Victor would explain, in detail, why he felt that way  
about the subject.*

*Whenever I wanted, ahhh, a classy word for something, or,  
someone, instead of what I would use, ugh, I would seek his  
opinion. We had quite a few discussions about what THE word(s)  
should be, always a LONG discussion and intelligent words, lol.*

*His sense of humor. He and I certainly enjoyed much laughter  
together about a few things, particularly how to get somewhere  
when Jim and I were visiting. We brought him to tears when we  
FINALLY arrived.*

*I have a strong feeling that he's enjoying Snickerdoodles, or, as I  
remember it, waiting for the freshly-baked-bread to cool just enough  
to be slathered with butter and enjoyed.*

*When Victor was earning money for college, he worked with my  
husband, Jim, at City Service Gas Station on the NY State Thruway.  
Laughter? They enjoyed each others company to the maximum.  
And, he called our first born, Sputnik.*

*Do I believe that when he arrived he and Sissy (Valerie) began  
hugging and laughing, and his mother, my Aunt Mary, along with her  
brothers and sisters that passed before them, ABSOLUTELY.*

*Love never dies.*

*Bernadette and Jim*

**Bernadette Russo, cousin** - April 24, 2022 at 05:09 PM

BB

“ Vic,

*My favorite Democrat of all time. Thanks for your many years of friendship. I learned a lot from you and I think once you learned something from me. You were like an older brother to me. Always full of advice and stories. The guy who I looked for the second I walked in church to find a seat next to. And it wasn't because of your singing voice. My baseball buddy. We were at the Cleveland INDIANS game when they broke the major league record for most wins in a row. We jumped for joy; historic. We talked all the way to and from those games about politics. You telling me if the government just spent more money on problems they'd all be fixed and of course me taking the opposite position. And you marveled that we could go on and on yet love each other. We also talked extensively about our time on earth and our looking forward to heaven. Well you've finally reached It my friend. Let me know if Christ is a Democrat or Republican when I get there. We did both agree Trump would be and was a mess. And remember my friend we'll both lay in rest at the same cemetery and our agreement to look for each other when we arise. It won't seem long to either of us. So until then, as we sing in church, memory eternal. I'll think of you often during the days I have left and may they be many years. Goodbye Vic, for now. Love you my friend.*

---

**Bill Brown** - April 23, 2022 at 06:30 PM

EG

*I had Dr. Victor Rentel at OSU many years ago when working on my Masters in Reading. He was my advisor (can't remember for sure if that is what they were called). I remember his passion for teaching reading and his encouragement in helping me. Wonderful person!*

---

**Eleanor Gibson** - April 27, 2022 at 06:20 PM