



# Andre M. van Tilborg

DEC 6, 1953 - AUG 18, 2014



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## **Andre M. van Tilborg**

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**D**r. André M. van Tilborg, 60, of Oak Hill, Virginia passed away on Monday, August 18th, 2014.

André was born on Sunday, December 6th, 1953 in Delft, Holland. He was the son of Adriaan van Tilborg and Vera (Berg) van Tilborg of Buffalo, New York.

His distinguished career in the service of the United States Government and the Scientific Community at large spanned over 31 years. Until his retirement in January 2014, André was Principal Deputy Director – Research – under the Assistant Deputy Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (ASD R&E) following the restructuring of the former Office of Director, Defense Research & Engineering (DDR&E). Prior to this post, Dr. van Tilborg served as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology (DUSD S&T) within DDR&E in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). In that role, Dr. van Tilborg exercised leadership over the Department of Defense (DoD) \$20B/year investment in applied research, advanced development, and prototype development efforts on behalf of the Department. André earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the State University of New York (SUNY) and published in the areas of distributed and real-time computing. He held technical and executive positions at the Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Department, Cornell Aeronautical Lab (Calspan), Office of Naval Research, and Honeywell Systems and Research Center. He was responsible for executive oversight of the Software Engineering Institute and the High Performance Computing Modernization Program. He led the formulation of numerous research initiatives, including major efforts in autonomous systems, image processing and target recognition, computational decision-making, embedded software, combat systems, and graphical visualization. He was a career member of the Senior Executive Service, a recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Rank award from President George W. Bush, and this year was awarded The Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service from The Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel.

When not at work serving his country, André enjoyed spending time with his family, loved camping, both tent and trailer/RV camping. His special projects were three 1966 Ford Mustangs



## Obituary

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he restored or was in the process of restoring – even welding in new floor panels himself. He enjoyed long morning walks - and his most peaceful personal moments were enjoying the starry night sky on a dark, clear, and moonless night.

In addition to his parents, André leaves his family to cherish his memory, including his beloved wife, Ruth van Tilborg of Oak Hill, VA; his four step children: Debbie McKillop of Ashburn, VA, Andrew McKillop of Centreville, VA, William McKillop of Margate, FL, and Michelle McKillop of Ashburn, VA; his two step daughters-in-law: Betty McKillop of Centreville, VA, and Teresa McKillop of Margate, FL; his five step grandchildren: Brandon McKillop, Ben McKillop, Charles Murray, Isabel McKillop, and Matthew McKillop, and one step great grandson, Parker McKillop; his sister, Bernadette Fairl of Kenmore, NY; his nephew, Rob Fairl, and his great nephew, Robert Fairl; his uncles: Erwin Berg of Venice, FL, and Johan van Tilborg of Houston, TX; his aunt, Elizabeth van Tilborg of Oirschod, Holland; his cousins, Marge Weber of Buffalo, NY, Hedy Jantzi of Sugarcreek, OH, and Frank Berg of Corona, CA.

Interment services will be held privately by the family.

In lieu of flowers, André would have appreciated donations to:  
Wounded Warrior Project at [www.woundedwarriorproject.com](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.com)  
or to ASPCA & ForeverHome Rescue Foundation at <http://www.aforeverhome.org>




## Events

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### Cemetery Details

 Cremation/ Interment to be held privately at a later date.



## Tribute Wall

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PA

**Patti** posted:

On behalf of A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, please accept our condolences on your loss. We are honored to be the recipient of a donation from Ralph Wachter in Dr. van Tilborg's memory. This donation will help us in our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abused, neglected, and abandoned puppies and dogs who would not have a chance at a loving home without our help. Patti Stinson [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org)

September 29 at 8:11 AM

ML

**Michael Lilienthal** posted:

I had the privilege of crossing paths with Andre several times during my years in the Navy. I got to see him on a regular basis when I was working for Dr. Holland at Andre's Rosslyn office and then again when I was Dr. Holland's military assistant. Andre always had a smile to greet me and knew I was always up to mischief and fun. He had as good a dry sense of humor as I and always won the battle of playful wits. He always made me feel welcome and I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone, even during difficult times at the Pentagon. He had the respect of his bosses, his peers, and his subordinates. He served his country by just trying to do the right thing and take care of the troops in harms way. I will miss him but I feel fortunate to have known him. I think he would want all to rejoice in his life. I imagine him quoting from this blessing I learned at the small Irish college I attended: My life's been full, I've savoured much: Good times, good friends, a loved-one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief—Don't shorten yours with undue grief. Be not burdened with tears of sorrow, Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow Mike Lilienthal (CAPT USN Retired)

September 2 at 11:35 AM



## Tribute Wall

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LS

**Lui Sha** posted:

When I was a PhD student at CMU around 1983, I was lucky to join a real time computing project led by Andre. His idea of developing theoretical understandings for high impact recurring technological problems encountered by industry has had a deep influence on me. Indeed, DoD systems often push the envelope of existing technologies. Some serious development problems are not caused by the lack of exercising best practices. Rather, they are caused by the lack of adequate scientific and technological foundation. At that time, the practice of real time system engineering was rather ad hoc. Andre had the vision of creating a comprehensive real time computing theory and supporting infrastructure. Andre went to ONR and created the ONR Real Time Computing Initiative which fostered the formation of the real time computing community. To help ensure the impact of ONR 6.1 research on DoD systems, he also funded IBM FSD to create a generic avionics model problem and a generic submarine model problem published in RTSS. His leadership to form academic and industry partnership in the Initiative not only created a real time computing theory widely used in practice but also transformed the real time computing infrastructure - IEEE standards on real time computing. Andre also played a key role in the success of model checking. He recognized the importance of this then new research and wanted to ensure its impact on industry. He asked me to introduce IEEE Futurebus+ cache coherent protocol to model checking researchers in an ONR workshop. At the end, Andre asked, "Who is interested to verify this protocol?" Ed Clarke raised his hand. His tool did find bugs in the early design. Ed later became a Turing Award winner. I would say that Andre also helped shape the culture of model checking community. When F22 was threatened to be canceled by Congress due to persistent avionics instability, Andre created an industry - academic team, OSD Avionics Advisory Team, who helped raise F22 lead jet's avionics stability by an order of magnitude in 9 months, and the lessons learned were passed to F35 design team. I was in Italy when he got sick. I planned to visit him when I came back in late August. But it was too late. I regret that I could not visit him when he was hospitalized. Andre was a visionary, a leader and a friend since I was a PhD student. We all miss him deeply. Lui Sha

August 20 at 3:14 AM

AL

**Alice (Lizauckas) Leone** posted:

My first met Andre when I was in 7th grade and he was in 9th. His sister, Benny, has been my friend ever since. I remember being at their family home and Andre always had a quick smile. Being 2 years younger at that age was huge, yet Andre always took the time to say, "hi." So, I am not surprised a bit, with the life that he lived!

August 25 at 5:22 PM



## Tribute Wall

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LC

**Lisa Costa** lit a candle in honor of Andre.

My sincerest condolences on the loss of Andre. Even in death he is providing all of us once more a moment of teaching - to live every day to its fullest and to the best of our abilities. Andre was a man of many talents but it will be his warmth, compassion, sense of humor, and friendship that will be remembered longest.



August 25 at 5:15 AM

IL

**Insup Lee** posted:

I am very saddened by the unexpected news of his passing. He has been a great supporter and friend of mine for a long time. My first meeting with him was early 1983 when I was interviewing for a job in Buffalo. I got to know him much better after I got interested in real-time computing. His visionary initiation of the real-time computing program at ONR has been instrumental in starting the new era for research in real-time computing. I fondly remember his persistent encouragement with smile in early days in my career. It is very likely for me to be in a different research area if it wasn't for his vision and encouragement. Andre, you have done a lot here with great impact. May your soul rest in peace in heaven! Best wishes, Insup

August 24 at 6:50 AM

CS

**C Schwarz** posted:

The world was a better place with André van Tilborg in it – and bleaker without him. Andre was one of the kindest persons I've ever known, and deeply respectful of all human beings. If you watched him carefully, you could learn from his example, for he was one of those rarest of individuals: a genuine mensch urging us to our better natures through his example. André had a quiet and unexpected good humor at the absurdities of life, and his always-there dependability was a steady comfort to me throughout the years. I am so sorry for your loss. Cindy Dion-Schwarz Employee, Colleague, and Friend

August 24 at 4:02 AM

RC

**Ros & Cecil Corbin** sent a Fruit Abounds to the van Tilborg family.



August 23 at 8:45 AM



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TB

**Terry Bollinger** posted:

I remember that when I met André at my new job in Rosslyn, we both said "I know you from somewhere"... and neither of us could remember where! By that afternoon we realized I had worked for one of his people when he had worked at the Office of Naval Research. Dr van Tilborg was a true statesman, a visionary, and a leader whose deep integrity and decades of selfless work directly contributed to young soldiers getting home safely to their families. His remarkable skills at guiding and selecting research paths have helped our country maintain and expand its global position as a powerhouse of technical innovation and of opportunities for small companies. André could have done amazing things for himself had he chosen to work in the private sector. Instead, he dedicated his skills and intellect to helping to make sure that amazing things could happen for others. His skillful guidance of research programs both strengthened our country and enabled researchers to explore new ideas and build new businesses. André also skillfully and subtly guided the pattern and tone of this emerging fabric of innovation. His leadership ensured that instead of producing a few small groups squabbling for funds, research efforts under his watch grew into a living foundation of innovation that will continue to strengthen and empower our country for decades to come. In my many years of working a few yards away from his office, I never once heard André boast about or even mention the service he was doing every day for his country. Yet in a world where it is too easy for people to use empty words to paint themselves as patriots, Dr André van Tilborg exemplified the true meaning of this word through his decades of dedicated, utterly selfless service to our country and its people. André, you were one of the greatest and truest patriots I have ever met, and it was my honor and privilege to have worked under you. I am comforted that after a long and difficult journey you have can finally hear the words you have so earned: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Welcome, welcome home!"

August 20 at 3:14 AM



**Richard Wilson** August 23 at 5:41 PM

Terry, my friend - that is the best summation of AvT's life I have ever seen. Wonderful, Sir Terry.

JV

**Judye & Roger Valliere** posted:

Dre was the sweetest friend with the ability to be there for you at any time you needed help. He was kind, caring, and had a heart of gold! He will be missed and not forgotten. Roger and I thought the world of him. I'll never forget Dre's compassion when my Mom and Dad died. He went way out of his way to get to the Arlington cemetery both times, to be with my family and honor my parents. God bless you dear brother in Christ. Rest in peace dear Dre.

August 22 at 4:57 AM



AM

**Aloysius Mok** posted:

I met Andre in 1983 when I was a fresh Ph.D. from MIT and a novice Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. We were both members of a small group of young people from academia and industry who were determined to make "real-time system" our research mission because we believed in its importance and we sensed the opportunity to make progress. Back then, real-time system was not an established research area and like all new research areas, we badly needed support to gather together a critical mass of people to share and bounce good ideas off one another. Andre with his superb sense of timing became our leader and benefactor. He took up a Scientific Officer position at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) where he championed research in real-time systems, and he was instrumental in launching a new research initiative in real-time systems at ONR. Since that time, Andre has been a constant contributor to our research efforts through his recognition of good ideas, his unceasing encouragement to all of us young faculty and his friendship that cements the community together. To me, Andre is not only a respected professional colleague; he is a trusted friend. Today, the real-time system community that Andre helped start has become an international community spanning several generations of scholars and practitioners. Andre deserves to share the credit of the scientific advance that our community has achieved; the technology that was made possible by the research Andre initiated directly or indirectly has helped save billions of dollars of the tax payers' money in national defense and in industry. Like a good Dutchman, Andre has turned a relatively modest investment into a bountiful harvest of the intellect as well as earthly returns. The IEEE Real-Time Systems Symposium, the premier scientific conference of our research area that was co-founded by Andre, is going to celebrate its 35th anniversary. How I wish that Andre could be there in Rome this December to celebrate with us, and I know he would, in spirit. AI Mok

August 20 at 3:14 AM

RW

**Richard Wilson** posted:

André was a great man in many ways. He was an exceptional scientist, leader, patriot, arbitrator, and friend. Always fair, honest, and thorough. People say you need to "earn trust". Well – you can't. Trust is too precious to be earned. Trust is a precious gift that will persist forever until or unless it is betrayed. André was very generous with trust. He was never a "shade tree" soaking up all the sunshine. Instead André delegated high visibility projects to his staff and did all the right things to promote their careers. And he was efficient with time, filling his day so he accomplished all his work such that sometimes he made sure he could get home to his family before dark. André preferred brevity. I miss his admonitions "Okay – let's keep it brief, Rick". I can still see him hurrying along to the next meeting - with those huge 4 foot strides – sailing down the Pentagon halls – with us fairly jogging to keep up – André 's suit jacket billowing out almost horizontally behind him. The "flying Dutchman"..... I had the privilege of working for and with him for 7 years on two separate details from my home office. And I cherish the privilege of spending some time with him just before he left for his next mission in the Universe. Hugs, Rick

August 21 at 1:03 PM



## Tribute Wall

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TB

**Teresa Bryant** lit a candle in honor of Andre.

Dr. van Tilborg was a great person to work for, he will be sorely missed. Keep the family in my prayers.

August 20 at 8:51 AM



BE

**Betty** posted:

The memory that sticks to my heart is when Andre and Mom Ruth welcomed us into their family. When my husband Drew first introduced to Andre he shook our hands and we felt the strength that this man had not only in his hands but also in his heart. Andre was a very quiet man but always had expert advice to give on any subject when asked. Phillip loved to play in his Mustangs and Brandon enjoyed watching Andre tinker with things as he tried to learn from him and had lots of questions. Andre was referred to as Grandpapa or as they would love to call him "Big Dre". They always loved to share the stories from their weekend fun with Dre and Mom Ruth. I never got the chance to say Thank you to him for treating us with such kindness. I looked up at Heaven today and I thanked him for being a part of our lives and assured him that we will all be here for Mom Ruth. It doesnt feel real that he is gone.....then again he is not gone. As I explained to my boys, Big Dre will always be close to our hearts and the memories can never be taken away. May God Bless You All!

August 20 at 3:34 AM

BE

**Betty** lit a candle in honor of Andre.

August 20 at 3:14 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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