



Andrew George Loerch

June 4, 1952 - June 15, 2022

Andrew George Loerch

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Andrew George Loerch (Andy), formerly of Manassas, VA and recently living in Lake Frederick, VA, passed away with a very brief but strong battle with pancreatic cancer. Andy was born on June 4, 1952 in Mineola, New York. His parents were George Loerch and Claire Bultman Loerch. Andy is survived by his wife, Claire; his son, Patrick, his wife Alysia and grandchildren, Ian and Ella (Colorado Springs, CO); his step-children: Tyler Sutherland (Manassas, VA), Spencer Sutherland (Corvales, OR) and Parker and Hope Shubert (Manassas, VA); his brother Steven, his wife Theresa (Vernon Hills, IL) and their children and grandchildren.

Andy retired on May 24, 2022 after 22 years as Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Systems Engineering and Operations Research at George Mason University. One of Andy's favorite things was to work with students and help them find successful careers.

Andy is Past President and Fellow of Military Operations Research Society (MORS) where he earned the distinguished Vance R. Wanner Memorial Award in 2011. He is co-editor of the book "Methods for Conducting Military

Operational Analysis” and author of many professional papers.

Andy is a 26-year veteran of the United States Army and rose to the rank of Colonel. He earned his PhD from Cornell University and was a graduate of Naval Postgraduate School and Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

If Andy was interested in doing anything, then he was obsessed with it and worked at it until he was the best possible. This is true with skydiving, karate, music, softball, and cycling. Andy played with the Northern Virginia Senior Softball league; was Principal bassoonist of the Manassas Symphony Orchestra since 2000 as well as a board member; Andy enjoyed riding his bike with the Old Cranks Cycling Club out of Vint Hill, VA as well as taking cycling trips throughout the country.

Above all else, Andy was the ultimate New York Yankees fan.

Andy will have a celebration of life viewing on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Pierce Funeral home located at 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. Memories and Reflections will be shared at 7:00 PM.

A funeral service will be held for Andy at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel (204 Lee Ave, Fort Myer, VA 22211) on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Burial with full military honors will immediately follow at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Andy has requested donations to be made in his memory to the Manassas Symphony Orchestra.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 18. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel
Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall

WW

“ *Dr. Loerch was one of my favorite professors during my undergraduate studies at George Mason University. I really enjoyed his Decision and Risk Analysis course. He was a very kind person and he was really knowledgeable. I'll miss him.*

Wayne Wright - November 04, 2025 at 06:00 PM

PA

“ *Writing far from Ivory Coast in West Africa.
Colonel Loerch was my professor at Virginia Tech back around 1995-1996 during my MBA.
My condolences to his family.
May he rest in peace*

Philippe Attobra - March 09, 2024 at 03:19 AM

HE

“ *My name is Hans Ewen and he was my boss in Zweibrücken Germany, 60th Ord Group. Andy was a smart and friendly person that I will always remember. God bless him and his family.*

Hans Ewen - October 29, 2023 at 05:57 AM



“ I was lucky meeting Andy during my time at George Mason University. I worked with Andy on his online course as his instructional designer. I always remember how dedicated Andy was during development process. He dedicated his summer only on the course development that not all faculty usually do. As his instructional designer, I also got to know Andy closer when I stopped by his office at the engineering building. I left Mason this summer without knowing that Andy was not longer with us. Andy and I also presented at the Mason teaching conference where we shared his online course. I will always remember his patience, professionalism, and his kind smile. My deep condolences for Andy's family. Larisa Olesova

Larisa Olesova - November 10, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



October 14, 2022 at 04:08 PM



“ Dr. Loerch was my academic advisor and professor during my time at GMU 10 years ago. His guidance as a former military officer was so helpful to me as a young Navy Lieutenant trying to figure out how to complete the degree in a short time. He was an excellent instructor, and so easy to talk to. Later he helped support my career with thoughtful recommendation letters. My heart sank at seeing the news of his passing. He made a positive impact on my life and so many others. I am grateful to have know him!

Tony Devoto - September 14, 2022 at 11:06 AM

LK

“ I served with Andy at the Center for Army Analysis. It was through his kind encouragement and mentoring that I got my MS in operations research. We continued our friendship at George Mason. Andy always had a smile, a joke and an answer to any OR question I came in with. I will miss Andy--whether in uniform or mentoring students at George Mason -he lived a life of service.

Linda Kotulan
COL, US Army (RET)

linda kotulan - June 27, 2022 at 09:07 PM



“ Offering sincere condolences for Andy. He was a great help to AFCEA NOVA. AFCEA NOVA is a better place because of his leadership. He will be missed, God Bless.

Dave Scarbalis
Colonel, US Army, Retired
Past President, AFCEA NOVA

David Scarbalis - June 21, 2022 at 05:30 PM

RT

“ I was friends with Andy in High School. I spoke to him recently after seeing that he relocated to Florida where we have a place about getting together after more than 50 years. I was very impressed with how much he accomplished in life. Was very saddened to see this awful news. Will be thinking of his friends and family.

Bob Tivey
Mineola HS Class of 70
Randolph NJ

Robert Tivey - June 21, 2022 at 11:09 AM

GT

“ I was a childhood friend of Andy's in grade school and boy scouts. We attended the same church and were confirmed together. My condolences to his family and friends.

Greg Thiel
Edison, NJ

Greg Thiel - June 20, 2022 at 07:41 PM

MT

“ I will always remember Andy for his generosity and the time he gave to being first my brother Barry Traylor's friend, and then the executor of his will. Their friendship began when they were both playing in the Manassas Orchestra. As Barry became sicker and more helpless, Andy and Claire were there for him to visit him in hospital or in rehab, to take things to him that he needed and to be by his side, right up to the end. My brother told me the week he died that his only regret was leaving his wonderful friends Andy and Claire. Thank you again Andy for being the great friend, through thick and thin, to my brother.

Monica Traylor - June 19, 2022 at 05:55 PM

CR

“ I am very saddened to hear of Andy's passing. We were good friends in high school and shared classes and performances in the music department. He was an excellent bassoonist and made it seem effortless. I have many good memories of Andy and will always remember him as a good man and a good friend. Rest well Andy. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Cathy Hirt Rodriguez - June 18, 2022 at 07:59 PM

KL

“ Andy, you were my friend and colleague for 22 years. My work day usually began with stopping by your office to say hello. We would exchange pleasantries, catch up on family news, talk about the department, and of course we would talk baseball. I was never a Yankees fan, but I would try to stay on top of how they were doing so I could talk about the latest Yankees news with you. You made such a big impact on the world in so many ways, but especially on the students you guided to fulfilling careers. You cared deeply about each and every student, and you made a difference in many lives. We all miss you so much!

Kathy Laskey - June 18, 2022 at 04:54 PM

ES

“ He was a good friend of my brother, Larry Tiernan. He was so funny and a nice person to talk to when we were all in high school. God Bless all of his family and my thoughts and prayers are with you all, at this sad time. Love, Elena Tiernan Stanley 🙏❤️

Elena Stanley - June 18, 2022 at 10:58 AM

SW

“ I was very saddened to hear of Andy's passing. I met Andy last year during my first season of senior softball. Andy was very kind to me and welcomed me as a teammate. Besides our chats about baseball and softball, we also had a common bond as both of us worked at academic institutions - Andy at Mason and me at Nova. I really enjoyed our talks about students and other school-related topics. I will fondly remember Andy and will miss him.

Steve Ward

Steve Ward - June 18, 2022 at 10:43 AM

LC

“ *Linda Chimenti purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



Linda Chimenti - June 18, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



June 17, 2022 at 10:21 PM

CB

“ *I only knew Andy for a relatively short time through softball, but I already miss him. And I will miss him in the future. I've played team sports for over 50 years, high school, college, adulthood, and I never had a better teammate than Andy. He always showed up, was always the voice of reason, always two moves ahead of everyone else, never an unkind word for anyone, always supportive, leading by example. He obviously conducted his whole life this way. An exemplary guy.*

Charlie Bowers

Charlie Bowers - June 17, 2022 at 09:06 PM

AW

“ Ariela and Will purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



Ariela and Will - June 17, 2022 at 05:21 PM

SD

“ SEOR Deaprtment purchased the Stately Lilies for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



SEOR Deaprtment - June 17, 2022 at 05:01 PM

TA

“ My deepest sympathies and condolences to Andy's family. I will always remember Andy as a friend and mentor. He hired me as an adjunct professor for the Military Operations Research curriculum in the late 2000's, and I also remember his outstanding leadership of MORS.

Tim Anderson - June 17, 2022 at 04:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



June 17, 2022 at 02:45 PM

JP

“ We were saddened to hear of Andy's passing. He was a nice person, friend, Dad, soldier and scholar when we knew him during his early days of grad school, the Army and Germany.

His family can take great pride and comfort in knowing that Andy made a positive difference in the many lives he touched.

Our deepest condolences,

*Jim and Meridyth Prouty
Pittsboro, NC*

Jim Prouty - June 17, 2022 at 02:35 PM

AT

“ Allan Wright and your N256 Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



Allan Wright and your N256 Team - June 17, 2022 at 02:01 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.



June 17, 2022 at 01:15 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



June 17, 2022 at 01:13 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



June 17, 2022 at 12:43 PM



“ *I was Andy's first PhD student and the first to complete the SE/OR program. I was at the Army Concepts Analysis Agency with him as a Reservist. Andy left me alone for the most part as I did my classwork and research, which I greatly appreciated. As a New York City kid, I was a Yankees fan too. And, we were both educated in Brooklyn. We would sit in his office and talk music - him and his bassoon and me and my mandolin.*

After 'getting hooded', we had a photo taken together for him to send to his advisor at Cornell to let him know he was now a 'grandfather'. The photo looked like a Christmas card, Andy in Cornell red and me in Mason green.

We have lost a soldier, scholar, musician, and friend.

John Evans, PhD

John Warner Evans, PhD - June 17, 2022 at 12:18 PM

JL

“ Our sons were fortunate to have Dr. Loerch as a professor and later as a mentor. He was always available to listen and help guide them in their lives and careers. He will be greatly missed.

Our sincerest condolences,
Walter and Joanna Ludwig

Joanna Ludwig - June 17, 2022 at 10:55 AM

KE

“ I was blessed to work with Andy for many years at CAA, and after as a student at George Mason University. I was not the brightest of students, and when I earned my PhD Andy would mention me as an example to his other students. Telling them that if 'Karsten can get a PhD, so can you!' His point being it takes tenacity, and determination to complete the degree, something Andy helped explain to me when I was struggling.

He was an amazing co-worker, and a mentor to me as a student.

He will be greatly missed (although, as a NY Mets fan, I always did QUESTION his choice of baseball teams ;-)

With sincere condolences,
Karsten Engelmann, PhD

Karsten Engelmann - June 17, 2022 at 10:18 AM

CH

“ I only recently met Andy through the Old Cranks club, he was a wonderful and kind person and will be missed by all he touched very much.

My deepest sympathies for Claire and the rest of Andy's family

Cheetah

cheetah - June 17, 2022 at 09:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



June 17, 2022 at 08:57 AM



“ *MORS Fellows, Directors, & Staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Andrew George Loerch.*



MORS Fellows, Directors, & Staff - June 17, 2022 at 08:48 AM



“ *I'm saddened to hear of Andy's passing. I enjoyed working with Andy for the past seven years helping students achieve their goals. He was always nice to chat with. I saw him at the spring 2022 graduation and joked about how I was sad I missed his retirement party. My prayers and condolences for his family.*



*DaFran Ware
College of Engineering and Computing
George Mason University*

DaFran Ware - June 17, 2022 at 05:49 AM

DW

“ Andy was a wonderful softball teammate and good friend to everyone in his softball league. He never had a cross word to say about anyone, and was always a supportive and positive person to be around. His former teammates as well as opponents will greatly miss him.

dave willmore - June 16, 2022 at 10:48 PM

CM

“ Andy was a good man, an incredible intellect, an excellent musician, and for 30 years the husband of Patrick's mother, Catherine McCormick. The entire McCormick family supports Patrick and Amanda as they grieve the loss of a wonderful father and uncle, brother-in-law to five siblings and their spouses, and loving son-in-law to Connie and John McCormick for so many years.

Catherine McCormick - June 16, 2022 at 09:51 PM

NS

I have wonderful memories from those days, too, Cathy. We would go to the Memorial Day concert at the Capitol every Year and hear great music and share a picnic with friends. If it was raining, and for some reason it often rained on Memorial Day back then, we would head to our friends Mary and Steve's in Arlington for a wonderful evening on their deck. At some point, Andy would disappear with Mary and Steve's two boys and Patrick and after awhile, they would return and give us a concert. Andy was so good with those three young boys, and it was clear that he enjoyed it as much as they did. My other favorite memory is from a dinner party at my house on 41st St. when Andy found a copy of my mother's 1943 edition of Emily Post's Etiquette and proceeded to entertain us all with a serious, formal reading. We laughed so hard; I will never forget it, He was hilarious. So, this is how I will remember him. Love, Nancy

Nancy Sullivan - June 28, 2022 at 09:14 PM

HC

“ Here is beautiful picture of Claire and Andy during our bike ride to Lake Anna, VA.

♥ Heidi



Heidi Cox - June 16, 2022 at 08:49 PM

HC

“ I have wonderful memories of our bike rides. Andy was very motivated and speedy! We had a nice time the three of us. Steve and I also enjoyed hearing you both play at the Manassas Symphony. Such amazing talent and energy! Fond memories.

Heidi Cox - June 16, 2022 at 08:41 PM

BY

“ Our sympathies to Claire, family and friends. One of the smartest people I've ever met, Andy could relate to anyone. We have such fond memories of Yankees spring training, corn hole and even the competitive Skipbo game. He worked hard, but played hard, too. And touched many lives.

Beth and Denny Yankey - June 16, 2022 at 08:02 PM

RW

“ I posted the following on my LinkedIn page.

Andy Loerch, GMU professor, retired Army Colonel, and military OR leader extraordinaire passed away last night.

He was profoundly influential in our generation of military OR. A giant. A mentor. An advocate. A friend. A caring educator who pushed you with a combination of sage counsel matched by, if he knew you could take it, a wicked wit. “The only good hat, Fred, has NY on it.”

He got me two of my post retirement jobs. He advised me throughout my dissertation path. He is the reason I am an adjunct professor today and a military OR professional. My debt to him is only exceeded by my sense of loss.

It’s sadly ironic that this week I have joined the Board of Directors of MORS which he had long encouraged me to pursue. Well, I am here Andy.

I pray you have passed through the pearly gates and having joined your bassoon to the symphony in the sky. We will miss you.

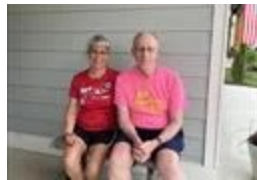
Ronald "Fred" Woodaman

Ronald "Fred" Woodaman - June 16, 2022 at 07:34 PM

SB

“ One of our favorite memories is when Andy and Claire sat on our new bench for the first time. We will miss him dearly.

Susan and Rick Bodane



Susan and Rick Bodane - June 16, 2022 at 07:20 PM