Richard (Dick) A. Volz died on 19 June 2013 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Dick was an IEEE Fellow and president of the IEEE RAS from 2006 to 2007. He was known as an exceptional researcher on robotics and control and was an excellent mentor to students and other researchers in robotics.

Volz was former department head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University. Prior to retirement from Texas A&M in 2004, Volz was the Royce E. Wisenbaker Professor of Engineering and served as department head from 1988 to 1997. In 2010, a festschrift titled “Workshop on Intelligent Systems: A Festschrift for Richard Volz” was held at Texas A&M to honor and celebrate his career.

Before joining Texas A&M, Volz was the founding director of the Robotics Research Laboratory and professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan. Simultaneously, he also served terms as associate department head, associate director of the Computer Center, and director of the Computer and Image Processing Research Network (CIPRNet). In 1971, he spent the (northern hemisphere) summer at the University of Chile, as part of an Organization of American States program. During the summers of 1973 and 1974, he held a summer faculty position at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Northwestern University in 1960, 1961, and 1964, respectively.

He was the author or coauthor of more than 175 research papers and led over US$15 million in funded research projects. He served in numerous professional service positions, e.g., editor-in-chief of *IEEE Transactions on Robotics and Automation*, the leading journal in the field; associate editor of *IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems*; general chair of the 1990 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation; vice-president for publications for the IEEE RAS; member of the IEEE publications, Services and Products Board; member of the IEEE Board of Directors; and numerous related committees. Early in his career, he served as secretary of the IEEE Automatic Control Group. As an undergraduate, he was editor of the *Northwestern Engineer*.

In honor of his efforts, the Dick Volz Best U.S. Ph.D. Thesis in Robotics and Automation was established. This award recognizes outstanding researchers in the field of robotics and automation who have obtained their Ph.D. degree at any U.S. institution in any topic within robotics and automation.

In addition to his IEEE Fellow award, he received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the U.S. Air Force, the Public Service Award from NASA, two Special Service Awards from NASA, an appreciation plaque from the NASA astronauts, and the Millennium Medal and RAS Distinguished Service Award from IEEE. As an undergraduate, he received the Esbach Award, the highest award given to an undergraduate engineering student at Northwestern.

At the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation held in Shanghai, China, Volz was named the recipient of the prestigious IEEE RAS George Saridis Leadership Award in Robotics and Automation for 2011. This award recognized Volz for his exceptional leadership in RAS governance, publications, and society procedures.

The following words were expressed on his remembrances Web site (http://parasol.tamu.edu/volzfest/remembrances): "Dr. Volz was a giant presence in life, a presence that he graciously shared with family, friends, colleagues and students. He will be missed." We of RAS also share in this deep loss.