CHANDLER, Van E.

B: 5 March 1925 Waxahachie, TX

D: 15 March 1998 Greeley, CO

Hometown: Waxahachie, Texas

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

P-51B-15-NA 43-24877 VF-U ***Wheezy***

P-51D-10-NA 44-14388 VF-U ***Wheezy***

4th Service: 6 June 1944 – 1 June 1945

12 SEP 44 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

1 JAN 45 Becomes youngest U.S. ace in WW II

29 JAN 45 Designated Squadron Assistant Operations and Gunnery Officer

Victories:

9 (5 air / 4 ground)

12 total (3 in Korea)

Highlights:

25 DEC 44 - 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109

1 JAN 45 - 1 ME-109

Post 4th Fighter Group:

SEP 1946 76th FS, Guam

DEC 1948 61st FS, Selfridge AFB, Michigan

SEP 1951 Promoted to Major

DEC 1951 Joins 51st TFW, 25th FIS in Korea

JUN 1952 HQ - Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, CO

NOV 1956 F-104 Project officer, Edwards AFB, CA

MAR 1958 RAF Staff College London, England

MAY 1959 Commanding officer 22nd TFS Bitburg, GER

JUN 1961 HQ - Strategic Air Command Offutt AFB, NE

JUN 1964 Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

AUG 1968 Air War College Maxwell AFB, AL

AUG 1969 Deputy CO Operations, 31st TFW, Vietnam

AUG 1974 Retires from Air Force (Colonel)

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC - Korea, Vietnam), Air Medal (12 OLC), Legion of Merit (OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Organizational Excellence Award, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, UN Korean War Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (w/ 4 bronze stars), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Longevity Service Award.