



## Robert D. "Dan" Chandler

September 19, 1945 - January 4, 2022

Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Robert D. "Dan" Chandler passed away peacefully on January 4, 2022 at his home in Hurricane, WV at the age of 76 after a long illness. He was born 1945 in St. Albans, West Virginia, the son of the late Fred H. Chandler and Maxine Coburn Chandler.

He is survived by his wife of forty-four years, Sue Anna Morgan Chandler; his daughters Kara Ellen Adkins (Chad) of Moore, SC and Rebecca Sue Wilson (Ben) of Culloden, and his grandchildren Jessie Kate Adkins, Samuel Luke Adkins, and Emily Christine Wilson. He is also survived by his brother Michael E. "Mike" (Pam) of Cincinnati, OH and their two sons Tim (Amber) and Greg (Melissa) and their families; his sister Gail Lynn Wechsler (David) of Katy, TX and their two daughters Lindsay Wagenhofer (Andrew) and Sara Arose (Josh) and their families; his brother-in-law Brandt T. Morgan (Sandy) of Winfield; and many special cousins.

Chief Chandler graduated from St. Albans High School in 1963. He then attended West Virginia State College before he entered the U. S. Air Force on 9 March 1966. He received his Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He became a Combat Ready C-130E Aircraft Loadmaster and began his flying career at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. In February 1969 he was assigned to the 774th Tactical Airlift Squadron, Clark Air Base,

Philippines, and began flying missions in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Air Force in 1970.

Chief Chandler joined the West Virginia Air National Guard in September 1971. He became an Aircraft Loadmaster on C-119 cargo planes. He became a fulltime employee of the West Virginia Air National Guard as a C-130 Aircraft Loadmaster in June 1975. He was assigned to the 130th Tactical Airlift Squadron. In August 1996 he became the first Command Chief Master Sergeant appointed in the 130th Airlift Wing where he served until 30 September 2000.

A Veteran of the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and War in Bosnia, Chief Chandler has flown to all of the 50 states and 77 foreign countries. He was selected as the Outstanding Airman of the Year for the State of West Virginia in 1986 and again in 1991. Chief Chandler was presented the Distinguished West Virginian Award by Governor Gaston Caperton in 1996. Chief Chandler accrued over 11,140 hours of flying during his flying career. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals while serving in the Vietnam War and one Air Medal for service in the Gulf War.

In 1974 Chief Chandler completed a B.A. degree in Geography at then Morris Harvey College in Charleston.

Other educational achievements in Chief Chandler's career include attending the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, McGhee Tyson Airbase in Tennessee in 1975 and the USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Montgomery, Alabama in 1983. Chief Chandler also completed the Advanced Airlift Tactics School, in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1989, and the Chief Master Sergeant Executive Course at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Chief Chandler was the ninth Command Chief Master Sergeant for the State of West Virginia. He was the chief advisor to the Adjutant General, Commanders and senior staff members concerning health, welfare, morale,

education, recruitment, combat readiness, and utilization of more than 1,900 enlisted personnel. He represented the Adjutant General on all matters concerning the implementation of command policy. Chief Chandler served as State Command Chief from 1 February 2001 to when he retired on 18 September 2005.

After retiring Chief Chandler became an active member of the James E. Marshall American Legion Post # 187 in Winfield. From 2006 Chief Chandler held many positions including Post Commander, Membership Chair and Historian. While in the military, Chief Chandler had put together patriotic slide and history of the flag presentations. Enlisting the help of others, he took these programs all over the State to schools, churches, and other civic organizations. He continued these programs with the help of his Legion Post members, helping to instill love for Country in many of our citizens, young and old. He served on the Post honor guard and participated in over 600 veteran funerals. Chief Chandler also represented the State of WV at the American Legion National Conventions, serving as the Sergeant of Arms. He also was instrumental in helping putting together the Four Chaplains and the 911 Memorial Ceremonies.

Serving as a counselor for several summer Boys State programs, he provided a good example of leadership skills for the young men. In 2017 Chief Chandler received a Distinguished Mountaineer award from Governor Jim Justice He received a Gold Brigade Membership Award in 2007 and 2018. He also received in 2018 the Department Membership Recruiting Award and the Dr. Ben I. Golden Award.

Chief Chandler was active in other organizations. He was a lifelong member of Grace Baptist Temple in St. Albans. Recently, he sang in the traveling gospel group called the Homeland Southern Gospel Choir.

Membership in other professional groups included the Enlisted Associations of the National Guard of West Virginia and of the United States, the Professional Loadmasters Association, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, and the Tactical Troop Carrier Association (Pacific Theater), as well as others. Chief Chandler will be remembered for a long life of service. His patriotism and desire to protect the ideals that made our Country great will hopefully live on in the many people he inspired. He loved his God, his family, and the men and women who have sacrificed so much to allow us to live in freedom. Many have given their lives. We will miss his warm smile and loving heart.

Visitation will be held at the Grace Baptist Temple in St. Albans from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday January 10, 2022. The funeral will be at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 11, 2022 also at the Grace Baptist Temple. Pastor Brian Dean and American Legion Department of WV Department Chaplain David Bush will be officiating. Burial will be in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans. The West Virginia Air National Guard and James E. Marshall American Legion Post #187 will be providing military honors.

Flowers are welcomed, but donations may also be made in Chief Chandler's memory to Grace Baptist Temple 1901 MacCorkle Avenue St. Albans, WV 25177 or to James E. Marshall American Legion Post #187 P.O. Box 31 Winfield, WV 25213.

You may leave condolences with the family at  
[BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com](http://BartlettNicholsFuneralHome.com)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home in St. Albans is serving the Chandler family.

# Cemetery Details

## Cunningham Memorial Park, Lower Mausoleum Chapel

815 Cunningham Lane  
St. Albans, WV 25177  
(304) 727-4349

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 10. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grace Baptist Temple  
1901 MacCorkle Ave.  
St. Albans, WV 25177

## Funeral Service

JAN 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Grace Baptist Temple  
1901 MacCorkle Ave.  
St. Albans, WV 25177

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ Dan and I met through Together we served. Although we never met in persn, we shared a common interest. The WV Air guard where I served as an airborne crew member from 1960-1969 flying in both the HU-16 and our common plane, the C-119.

*I just learned of his passing from our common bond as wingmen in TWS.*

*Condolences to the family. The 130th lost a comrade.*

*Jim Westfall*

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**Jim Westfall** - April 07, 2022 at 08:33 PM

DP

“ Dan was one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever known. We flew and deployed together many many times, including our first trip to a bombed-out Kuwait City during Desert Storm. What an experience!

*He helped me when I became the Stan/Eval navigator for the 130th, which led to my full-time position at 21AF. I was just thinking about him and how he was so understanding of other folks, and how hard it must have been for him when his regular crew in Vietnam was killed while he was on leave. I guess that helped him know he had a higher calling in life, to serve his community, state and nation.*

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**Dr. Timothy S. Penn** - January 10, 2022 at 12:43 PM

LS

“ Dan was a wonderful man who loved God , his family and his country. He served them well. We will all miss him but never forget him! Love and prayers to all the family.

*Lynn(McDaniel) & Sam Stribling.*

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**Lynn Stribling** - January 10, 2022 at 12:14 PM

SM

“ Kara, What a beautiful tribute to your dad. Your dad sounds like he was an amazing man. I know he will be missed! I had no idea he led such a full life & so dedicated to his country, family, community & friends. Truly an honorable man and dad. Our deepest sympathy to you & your family. We love you. Susan (MawMaw) and Mal Morrison. Thinking of you today.

susan morrison - January 10, 2022 at 12:05 PM

JC

“ Prayers to all. It is still hard to believe. But I know he is truly home....he is watching over the family, with that big Dan smile God Bless

Joyce Cutlip - January 10, 2022 at 10:25 AM

BW

“ Bill and Deborah Waddill purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



Bill and Deborah Waddill - January 10, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



January 10, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



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January 10, 2022 at 08:49 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



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January 10, 2022 at 08:41 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



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January 09, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ [https://www.bartlettnicholsfuneralhome.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518"; target="\\_blank">Memorial Trees</a> was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.](https://www.bartlettnicholsfuneralhome.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)

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January 09, 2022 at 08:33 PM

RO

“ My family lift up our prayers of love and support for the family and friends of Chief Master Sergeant Robert “Dan” Chandler. Rest In Peace CMS, your mission complete, job well done.

Ron, Tammi and Taryn Garton  
Charleston, WV

Taps

Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the hills, from the lake, from the skies.  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep, may the soldier  
or sailor, God keep. On the land or the deep, Safe in sleep.  
Love, good night, must thou go,  
when the day, and the night need thee so?  
All is well. Speedeth all To their rest.

Fades the light;  
And afar Goeth day, And the stars Shineth bright,  
Fare thee well; Day has gone, night is on.

Thanks and praise, for our days,  
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky,  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

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Ron - January 08, 2022 at 04:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.*



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January 08, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.*



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January 08, 2022 at 01:10 PM



“ *Marty Powers and Vicki Valentine purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.*



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**Marty Powers and Vicki Valentine** - January 08, 2022 at 12:31 PM

JK

“ Dear Dan Chandler Family;

*I was Blessed to just know Dan Chandler and more so, by serving under him in the American Legion Post 187 Honor Guard! I was first, the Historian and then, the Finance Officer! We became very good friends, he supported me when I lost my wife, with a group of Legionnaires, at her wake! Later, he took me to a WVU football Game in Morgantown, this was this man's kindness! As we traveled, we talked about our backgrounds and our experiences, in the military and life!*

*He loved his mother and he and some of our Honor Guard went to her nursing home, to put on a patriotic show and for him to show more love to her!*

*My Honor Guard days were curtailed in 2012, with Bladder Cancer, Dan and Sue took me to Ashland, KY to an Irradiation place, once a week, for over a month! In 2016, I had Lung Cancer and my days were further curtailed, at Post 187! I am still a member and Post 187 would not survived, had it not been for Dan Chandler!*

*Dan and I would talk on the phone, for about an hour, I was not near who Dan was, but we had the same thoughts, Ideas and in his first 2 years of Post 187 Commander, he gave me a wall Plack, thanking me for several things, that I did for Post 187! I have always cherished it and now, I shall cherish it even more!*

*May God Bless all of Dan's family and all of his Loved Ones, during this very trying time!*

*In a Christian Way, I Loved Dan Chandler*

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**James Kinzer** - January 08, 2022 at 07:31 AM

WG

“ Sympathy to the Chandler family from Bill and Kathy Gossard and family. Dan was really special and a good man and a great friend. He will never be forgotten as he left his mark on many guys who served with him. He was a good and faithful servant to God, family and country

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**Wm. Gossard** - January 08, 2022 at 01:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



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January 07, 2022 at 07:42 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



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January 07, 2022 at 04:24 PM



“ 83 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home - January 07, 2022 at 01:19 PM



“ Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



January 07, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Robert D. "Dan" Chandler.



January 07, 2022 at 12:20 PM

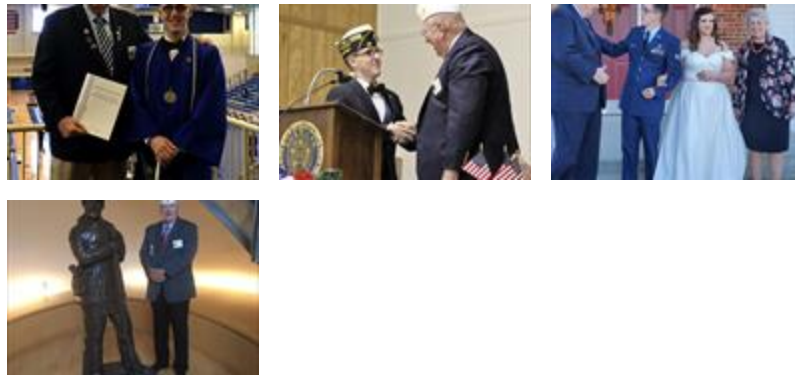
DW

“ Dan was a friend, mentor, and set an example for all that knew him. A fine patriot that never faltered. His wife Sue was as much a part of the 130th as we were. Rest in Peace. Your legacy loves on.

David M Weddington - January 07, 2022 at 11:28 AM

DL

“ Dan was an amazing friend and mentor. Her taught me a lot and instilled me in a new sense of determination in my ultimate goals in The American Legion and 130th Airlift Wing. Tiffanie and I give our prayers to Sue and the family. We both will miss Dan and his love of history, which he and I were avid for. Until we see each other again old friend.



Donnie Lambert - January 06, 2022 at 08:27 PM

LC

“ I am so terribly sorry!, Dan was a wonderful caring, loving man who always had a kind word and was full of encouragement and knowledge. I know he blessed the lives of many and was so proud of his family. He always talked highly of his loving wife. My his soul rest in peace. My thoughts are prayers are with the family during this difficult time.  
Lisa



Lisa Cadwallader - January 06, 2022 at 06:08 PM