

Edward Chandler, aviation pioneer

By MIKE BILLINGTON
Staff Writer

Edward J. Chandler, 62, a pioneer in the aviation and aerospace industries, died on Thursday of a massive heart attack while boarding a flight at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

At the time of his death, he was the Fort Lauderdale executive sales representative for Midcoast Aviation Co. of St. Louis, a position he assumed after merging his own Chandler Aviation with that firm.

Mr. Chandler, a pilot for more than 40 years, accumulated more

than 3,500 flight hours in aircraft including Lear 23s, Falcon 20s, DC3s, DC4s, PBYs and F-4s.

Mr. Chandler, who was a Fort Lauderdale resident for the past 14 years, in 1969 was the first person in the United States to be granted a Federal Aviation Administration license for chartering corporate jets.

During his career he worked with some of the nation's leading airplane and aerospace companies. He was formerly a vice president of Lear Jet, president of Hansa Jet Corp., and vice president of Gates Aviation.

Mr. Chandler, a former special agent with the FBI, also formerly was president of Walkers Cay Air Terminal in Fort Lauderdale, president of Tilford Aviation, and president of World Jet Inc.

During World War II, Mr. Chandler flew for the Navy in the South Pacific. His awards and decorations include the Air Medal.

He was a cum laude graduate of Holy Cross College with a bachelor's degree in economics, and he also worked for the General Electric Co. as an international sales director in Geneva, Switzerland.

He is survived by his wife, Carole; a son, Edward; daughters Carol, Lynn, Lisa and Christine; mother, Josephine; a brother, Robert of Dover, Mass.; and a sister, Nancy of Norward, Mass.

Visitation will be on Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Jordan Fannin Guardian Chapel, 5110 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale.

Services will be in St. John the Baptist Church on Wednesday at 11 a.m.