Henry Rice Scobee Jr., a mechanical engineer, veteran and entrepreneur, died Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016, in Lake Charles, of natural causes.

Henry Rice Scobee Jr. and his twin brother, Hansen Evans Scobee, were born in Leesville, La., to Leonora Hansen and Henry Rice Scobee Sr. on Sept. 17, 1926. Rice attended Leesville High School and was accepted into Texas A & M School of Engineering. His studies were interrupted by World War II, when was called into service as an officer. He also would later serve in the Korean Conflict.

Rice moved to Lake Charles in 1947, and briefly worked for Cities Service Oil Company, then for the oil field services company Magcobar, which meant traveling to oil fields all over the world. In 1961 Rice founded Industrial Equipment & Engineering with partners H.A. “Buster” Carlson Jr. and Francis Roy. The partners patented a polyolefin seamless tank within a metal tank that was the first of its type and opened the international market.

In addition to his business, Rice was an avid golf and gin rummy player who was the past president of the Lake Charles Country Club where his passionate play upon the golf course and the 19th hole were legendary for both his colorful expressions and his unending quest to perfect his game. His love of the outdoors was expressed by his expertise in hunting and fishing which he shared with his children and grandchildren.

A hard working man by nature and upbringing, Rice was also known for his stamina and sense of humor. Early in his Lake Charles years he met Jeanelle Mary Roy. Their family began in February 1955 and together welcomed their children, Henry Rice “Hank” Scobee III, Claire Marie and Roy Rezin Scobee, into the world and who, along with his son-in-law, Michael Farley and grandchildren, William Rice and Henry Michael Farley, mourn Rice’s passing.

Rice was preceded in death by his brother, Hansen; and grandson, Cody.