

Robert Rice, 81, of Sapphire, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007, at home.

He was born March 1, 1926, and was the second child of Lewis Carl Rice Sr. and Alberta Carter Rice of Highlands.

Robert served in the U.S. Navy during WWII; worked 15 years for the US Forest Service; and was a real estate developer and residential builder in Cashiers.

He is survived by two sons, Robert Rice Jr., and wife Mary Beth of Braselton, Ga., and Alan Rice and wife Connie of Sylva; one daughter, Catherine Rice Tanner and husband Dorse of Sapphire; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Keener Rice; two brothers, Dick and Lewis; a daughter, Mary Rice Hendren; and one great-grandchild.

Graveside services will be held Friday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Cemetery in Cashiers, with Rev. Jim Kinard officiating.

Pallbearers will be Thomas Rice, David Smith, Samuel Walk, Joseph Ward, Neil Lyday and Coleman McKinney. Honorary pallbearers are Dean Madden, Ed Madden, Tommy Madden, Bud Darden and Scott Dillard.

The family will receive guests and have a Celebration of Life in the fellowship hall at the church immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Transylvania or Jackson County Hospice.

Bryant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences are available by visiting www.MeM.com.

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