John Fred Hambright, III was born and raised in Roby, Texas, on a cotton farm. He was a proud graduate of Texas A&M University where he received a degree in petroleum engineering. He was also a member of the A&M Corps of Cadets, as well as the Ross Volunteer Company honor guard.

After graduation, he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and later held posts in England and Germany from 1951-1953. After his discharge from the service, he moved to Plainville, Kansas, where he worked for his uncle, Fielding Patrick Hambright, as an Oil & Gas Landman. During the course of his work, he met Dolores Mae Carty of Denver, CO. They married in 1954 and moved to Wichita, Kansas. In 1955, J. Fred worked for Lewis Drilling Company, and then spent two years in Ohio for the company from 1963-1965. He came back to Wichita where J. Fred eventually founded J. Fred Hambright, Inc.

He remained active in the oil and gas leasing business for the rest of his years. The breadth and volume of his work would eventually lead to him being inducted into the Legacy Gallery of the Kansas Oil Museum, as well as the Kansas Oil and Gas
Hall of Fame. He was preceded in death by his wife Dolores, to whom he was married for 61 years.

J. Fred was a member of Reformation Lutheran Church and the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, as well as numerous other oil and gas-related organizations. He was an Eagle Scout, proud alumnus of Texas A&M (where he served as Muster Chairman of the Wichita Chapter), and helped countless people get their start in the oil and gas business. J. Fred was a bowler, a fisherman, and he loved a good pun. He had a quick wit, warmth, and generosity to him. He was a man who enjoyed life to the fullest, proud to have made lasting contributions in business and in life, and to have encouraged and supported as many people as he did.