

Ebba Melissa Atkins

November 25, 1925 – March 6, 2011
(85)

95 Getty Ave.
Clifton, NJ



Ebba at 8 mos.



Ebba was born at home to her parents Ruth Alexandria Kelley (Johnson) and John Alexander Kelley on November 25, 1925 at home. They lived in the home with Ruth's parents Nils and Hilma Johnson. Hilma helped in the birth as her "Nurse".

A beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Ebba passed away peacefully at her home at the retirement community The Chateau at Valley Center in Renton, WA. On Sunday March 6, 2011 after a long struggle with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). She is preceded in death by her husband Charles Robert (aka Charlie or Bob) (2002), son Thomas Robert of Auburn WA. (1992). Parents John & Ruth (1938), Sister Dorothy Poelstra (1974), Brother Gilbert A. Kelley (1994) all of Clifton NJ.

Grandparents Nils & Hilma Johnson, Mother Ruth and Aunt Ebba

This a picture of Ebba's grandparents Nils Peter Johnson and Hilma A. Johnson with their oldest daughter Ruth (Ebba's Mother) and Ruth's sister Ebba (Aunt Ebba) while in Sweden in 1895. It notes that Ruth was born in 1890 and that these girls were 2 of 7 children.





John Alexander Kelley

This is Ebba with her Father and Skipper in the backyard of the home on Getty Ave. This is the only picture of her dad that Ebba had, she carried it with her in her purse. John spent the majority of 1937 in Paterson NJ at the Valley View Sanatorium battling Tuberculosis. He had finished his treatment and expected to come home for Thanksgiving. Unfortunately he contracted pneumonia and died in January 1938. Ebba had just turned 12.



Ruth Alexandria (Johnson) Kelley

This is Ebba's mother Ruth that is the only picture she has of her. It is in a locket with Ebba's baby picture. Ruth passed 12/18/1938 from a broken heart after losing her husband John. Ebba had just turned 13.

Age 13 through 19

Ebba was the youngest of 3. Ruth and John had Dorothy Mae on March 10, 1911 and Gilbert A Kelley on March 26, 1916.

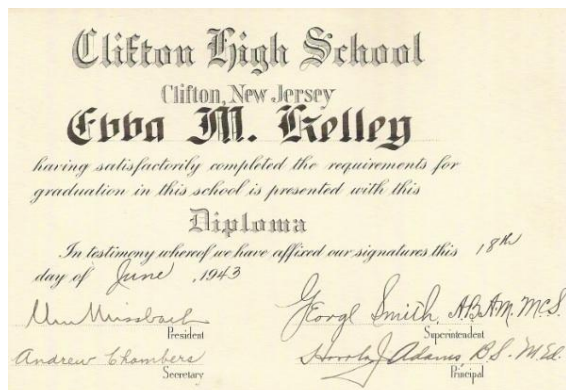
After Ebba's mother Ruth passed, Ebba continued to live with her grandparents, Nils and Hilma Johnson in their Getty Ave. home. Hilma passed away 12/2/1944 when Ebba was 19. Her grandfather Nils health was getting worse so her brother Gilbert, his wife Niesje and their daughters Louise and Patty moved in to care for Nils until his death. Ebba moved in with her sister Dorothy at that time. Ebba lived with Dorothy and her husband Hilton until she married her husband. Gilbert and family continued to live in that home until their passing. Gilbert passed 3/13/1994 and Niesje passed 7/18/1999.



Dorothy

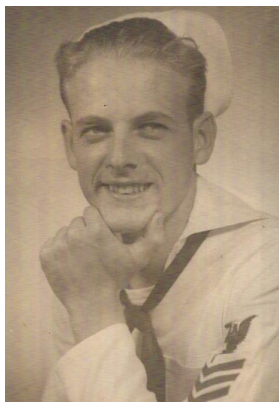


Graduation, Working, Marriage



Ebba graduated June 18, 1947 from Clifton High School. She worked at Standard-Vacuum Oil of NY in NYC as a Page from June 43 – Oct 43. She then worked at the Clifton Nat'l Bank as a teller from Oct 43-June 48. After the wedding they moved to Michigan (Willow Run) for Bob to start school at the University of Michigan to study Aeronautical Engineering.

Ebba and Charles "Bob" Robert Atkins



Ebba met Bob in 1945. He was in the Navy as an Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class. Below is their engagement announcement. They were married on June 26, 1948 in Alwood NJ at St. Andrews Church. At that time Bob was studying mechanical engineering at Fairleigh Dickson Junior College, Rutherford NJ. They honeymooned at Niagara Falls.

Below the picture includes Pat and Louise Kelley Gilberts daughters (left) and Ebba's sister Dorothy (right)



Ebba Kelley Is Affianced

Engagement To C. R. Atkins Told

Gilbert A. Kelley, of Clifton, announces the engagement of his sister, Miss Ebba M. Kelley, 385 Clifton Boulevard, Clifton, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kelley, to Charles Robert Atkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Atkins, 90 Amsterdam Avenue, Passaic.

Miss Kelley is a teller in the Clifton National Bank, Clifton. Mr. Atkins is studying mechanical engineering at Fairleigh Dickinson Junior College, Rutherford. He will enter the University of Michigan in February to major in aeronautical engineering.



University of Michigan 1949-51

Monson Ct., Willow Run, MI

While Bob attended school Ebba is seen here making a hamper. She worked at Kaiser Frazer Auto Co. from July 48 until being laid off (as a result of a Reduction in Force) Jan 49. She then worked for the Univ. of Michigan Food Services, Ann Arbor Mar 49 – Sept 49. After giving birth to their first son Thomas she worked at Beyer Memorial Hospital in Ypsilanti MI Mar 51-Aug 51.



Thomas Robert Atkins 4/16/1950

Thomas is the first of 4 children born to Ebba and Bob. As Bob completed his education in June 1951 he is recruited with a number of companies like Motorola and The Boeing Company. They chose to move out west and he started work for Boeing later that year.



Michigan to Renton, Washington



Renton Highlands – Renton WA

After traveling from Michigan in August 1951 they moved into the Renton Highlands where they stayed until early 1954 when they moved into their first home in Eastgate (Bellevue) Washington where they lived until the mid 70's. Ebba remained a housewife until Feb 68 when she was an Avon Lady until Feb 70. She reached the Diamond Pin level.

Family Grows in Eastgate Washington 1954 - 1980

Jon William Atkins 5/5/1954



May 5, 1954 Jon William Atkins was born at Valley Hospital, Renton WA. Jon being their second son, Ebba and Charlie (now Bob was beginning to be know by his co-workers at Boeing as Charlie) decided to try one more time for a daughter. They had two beautiful girls on Nov. 1, 1957.

11/ 1/1957

Christine Elizabeth Atkins



Melissa Marie Atkins

Feb 1958



11/1/1959



Ebba loved family and the many friends she met along her journey. Christmas time was her favorite. She asked that we bring flowers each Christmas to her gravesite.

Christmas 1958



July 1965



Christmas 1979 (top) Christine, Jon, Ebba, Melissa, Cathy (Tom's wife), (Bottom:) Tom, grandson Brian, grandson Jeff, Charlie, Susan (Jon's wife)

Grandchildren

Son's of Thomas and Cathy Atkins



Jeffrey Charles Atkins
Born July 30, 1975



Brian Thomas Atkins
Born Jan 26, 1978

Son of Melissa Atkins



Jon Matthew Hillhouse
Born Jan 25, 1982

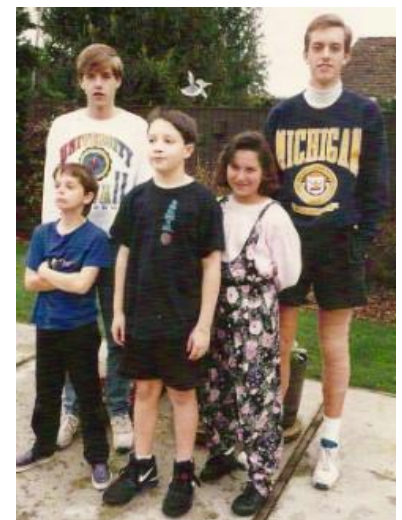
Daughter & Son of Jon and Susan Atkins



Nicole Elizabeth Atkins
Born December 15, 1980



Carl David Atkins
Born July 1, 1983



1991

Great-Grandchildren



Great Grandchildren from
Brian and Hillary Atkins: Colden
and Brindley. Photo taken Feb
2011.

Great Grandchildren from Jeff and
Cheyenne Atkins: Madison, Matthew
and Brandon. Picture taken Oct 2001.



From Eastgate to Issaquah to Woodinville to Ocean Shores, WA

Eastgate

Ebba loved to garden, and in the 1960's and 70's she was an active member of the Eastgate Garden club.

Ebba was also the neighborhood Avon Lady from Feb 68 to Feb 79 and achieved the Diamond Pin status. She had to stop due to an illness.

In mid 70's Ebba worked at Marty's Golf Course Restaurant at the Bellevue Municipal Golf Course.



Ebba loved to garden, here is a great example of her green thumb at work in her backyard.

Southcove – Issaquah, WA. Sept 1978



Ebba and Charlie had this house built in 1978 in order to down size from the Eastgate home after all the kids moved out. In January 1984 they bought the cabin in Ocean Shores, Sand Dune Drive shown below as a get away. They and the family have many great memories. After Charlie retired they went many times. In 1999 Charlie's health was starting to decline so they sold the Southcove home and moved into a retirement community in Woodinville called Britney Park. They realized that they were still too young for that environment. So in mid 2000 they moved to the cabin.



Britney Park – Woodinville, WA. 1999



The cabin turned out to be too small for full time living so they had a house built on Duck Lake. The house was done August 31, 2002, the day Charlie passed away. Ebba moved in and lived there until 2009. She then moved to the Chateau in Renton, WA.

Duck Lake – Ocean Shores, WA. 8/02



Ocean Shores, WA



Ebba and Charlie lived fulltime in Ocean Shores starting 2000. For health reasons Ebba moved in 2009 to the Chateau at Valley Center where she lived until her passing on March 6, 2011. Ebba and Charlie were involved with Citizens for Responsive Government, Associated Arts of Ocean Shores, Enjoyed Mariah's and the many restaurants in the area. Ebba was also a friend of the Library and member of the Women Helping Women group, Friends of the Clinic and volunteered at many of the events at the Convention center. They loved living in Ocean Shores and all the friends they made.

EBBA IS SURVIVED BY:

Son Jon W. Atkins (Susan)
Twin daughters Melissa M. Atkins and
Christine E. Powell (Ron)

Grandchildren:

Jeffrey C. Atkins (Mary)
Brian T. Atkins (Hillary)
Nicole E. Foster (John)
Carl D. Atkins
Jon M. Hillhouse (Sandy Olsen)

Great grandchildren:

Colden, Brindley, Brandon, Madison and
Matthew

Nieces and Nephew's:

Fred C. Atkins Jr. (Lynda)
Linda Atkins Whitehead (Winston)
Mary Atkins Caruso (Ron)
Joanne Atkins Pfingsten (Robert)
Louise Kelley Lacorte
Patty Kelley Caravanno (Robert)

Sister In-Law:

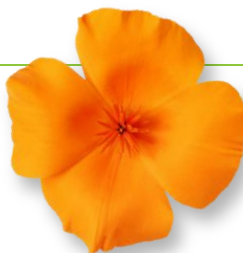
Adrienne Atkins

In closing, we found this writing in Ebba's bible and find it to be a fitting thought:

"And the mother said. 'I have reached the end of my journey and I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone and their children after them.' And the children said, 'You will always walk with us mother, even when you have gone through the gates.' And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, 'we cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a more than a memory. She is a living presence.'"

Contact Information:

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425-417-8499



Remembrances may be made to:

The American Lung Association (www.lunguse.org/donate) or
The Bellevue Botanical Gardens (www.bellevuebotanical.org)

