



Joan Thorne Gifford

November 13, 1934 - January 2, 2020

Joan Streeter Atkinson was born in Tarboro, NC. Growing up at Bensboro, the Atkinson family farm in Pitt County, she was always eager to face new challenges. At 14, Joan drove an 18-wheeler to deliver pickles and conducted payroll out of the back of her father's pickup truck. She majored in Psychology at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, graduating in 1956.

After college, Joan served as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Kenneth M. Brinkhouse in the Department of Pathology at the UNC School of Medicine at Chapel Hill. While there she met a young pathology resident, Dr. Charles W. Robinson, Jr. In 1958 they married, then welcomed a daughter, Ashley, and a son, Charles. In 1965, the family moved to San Antonio for Charlie to practice medicine while Joan was active in numerous organizations including the Bexar County Medical Society, First Presbyterian Church, the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health.

Joan moved to New York City in 1980 to pursue a career as a psychotherapist. She earned her Clinical Psychology Ph.D. from the Fielding Institute. Joan and husband Robert B. Thorne, Ph.D. helped many patients over their 20+ year practice. In addition, Joan taught Sunday school classes at Marble Collegiate Church, taught counseling skills at the Blanton Peale Institutes for Religion & Health and served on the boards of the

Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute and the Temple of Understanding.

In 2001, Joan married Edwin N. Gifford. Dividing their time between Amagansett, NY and San Antonio, TX, they enjoyed gardening, travelling, and their grandchildren. In San Antonio, Joan remained active with friends and organizations such as the Mind Science Foundation, Leadership San Antonio, Timely Topics, and the San Antonio de Bexar Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, Benashley Streeter and Mabel Baum Atkinson, and two husbands: Robert Thorne and Edwin Gifford.

She is survived by her sister Janice Cutchin (and husband Lawrence) of Tarboro, NC, daughter Ashley Dike, son Charles W. Robinson (and wife Amy), four grandchildren: Peyton Dike, Stuart Dike, Ramsey Robinson, and Charlie Robinson, along with several lifetime friends.

Joan embodied the grit and grace of a Southern farm girl, the friendliness and compassion of a Texan, and the savviness of a New Yorker. She was a deeply spiritual person who loved and cared for many people and will be profoundly missed. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in honor of Joan may be made to the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, San Antonio, TX, the Temple of Understanding, New York City, NY, or to a charity of your choice.

Please join us for a celebration of Joan's life on Saturday January 11th at 5pm at the San Antonio Country Club, 4100 N. New Braunfels.

You are invited to sign the guestbook online with www.missionparks.com.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ *When I was a senior in High School I went to the key club convention in Greensboro, Joan was a senior at WCUNC, she had a beautiful room mate from Sweden and I had a crush on both of them. On of my great life experiences was taking them out for breakfast, coat and tie, for a young high school kid this was as good as it gets, loved you always for that dear Joan*

mack holmes - January 09, 2020 at 12:28 AM

BB

“ *Great friend, outstanding person, smart, educated, attractive, cultured, we've lost a member of our women's group*

brad bergmann - January 07, 2020 at 09:45 PM

AD

Thank you Brad. It is a huge loss.

Ashley Dike - January 08, 2020 at 03:11 PM

DW

“ *I didn't know Joan Thorne Gifford personally but I knew her through her sister, Janice Cutchin, who I know loved her sister dearly. Janice would share stories of their visits with each other. Joan sounded like a woman who loved life and family very much. May God comfort the family and give them peace through every precious memory. Be Blessed!*



Deborah Woodard - January 07, 2020 at 10:58 AM

AD

Thank you and we will miss my mother so much.

Ashley Dike - January 08, 2020 at 03:10 PM

KW

“ Ashley, Charles, Amy, Charlie, Ramsey and family: my heart goes out to you at this time of loss. I've enjoyed my conversations with Joan over the years. She was an intelligent, compassionate and beautiful person. We will see you on Saturday to celebrate her life. Much love, kathleen whitten

kathleen whitten - January 07, 2020 at 08:57 AM

AD

Thank you

Ashley Dike - January 08, 2020 at 03:12 PM

HW

“ Joan was my mother's beloved neighbor at 4001 in San Antonio. Joan was always the epitome of a southern lady and grace - much like my dear mother! She helped me through some challenging times when my mother passed and I will always be grateful for that. Joan had a lovely smile and presence. My brother Brad was a good friend of hers. I know I'd have seen more of her had I lived in San Antonio. Sending the family my deepest condolences and sympathy. She was a true gem.

Hindi Wilson (Denver, Colorado)

Hindi L Wilson - January 06, 2020 at 10:52 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Walters
It is with a heavy heart that I say today that my precious wife, Deborah, departed this life peacefully around 8 pm on Jan. 06, 2020.
Her struggles, having walked her last days, right to the end, with no cancer, she walked to her apartment with her, wrapped in my arms.
She was taken to a nearby hospital immediately, but her long journey home was so short. She passed in my "hospital" bed.



Charles Robinson - January 06, 2020 at 08:57 PM



a beautiful lady... Charles, Amy & Ashley - you were blessed...

kathleen whitten - January 07, 2020 at 09:03 AM