



Betty Louise Elkins Jacobs

July 26, 1927 - March 10, 2026

Betty Louise Edson Elkins Jacobs was born on July 26, 1927, near South Union Church in Monroe County, Indiana, and passed away peacefully on March 10, 2026, in Bloomington, Ind. She was the daughter of Jesse Maurice Edson, born in Coles County, Ill., on Sept. 13, 1877, and Stella May Edson, born in Monroe County, Ind., on Feb. 1, 1888.

After attending Kirksville School and graduating from Bloomington High School in 1945, Betty began working at Graham Motor Sales in Bloomington, and went on to hold a number of clerical and administrative jobs.

On April 9, 1948, she married Willard George Elkins at South Union Church. They bought a farm on what is now Fluck Mill Road. Her son Stephen Edson Elkins was born on April 20, 1949, followed by Deborah Ann on Oct. 17, 1951, and Brian Keith on Aug. 5, 1955. Willard died in 1991, and in 1995, Betty married William Jacobs. They shared several happy years together with their families until Bill died in 2003.

Betty was a talented seamstress and homemaker, known for her pies. She held a series of clerical positions, including at the Monroe County Clerk's Office and at several insurance companies. In 1967, she began staffing the office at the Woolery Stone Company, a job she held for 25 years. She enjoyed promoting Indiana limestone and visiting sites where Woolery's had

sent stone, including the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, in Richmond, Va. She was on location during filming of scenes at Woolery's for the 1979 movie *Breaking Away*. She was acknowledged, albeit anonymously, as the "lone woman" in the Woolery office in the 1985 book *Stone Country*, a history of Indiana limestone. After her retirement, Betty enjoyed traveling and quilting, and she was a long-time volunteer in the gift shop at the Bloomington Hospital and at the Monroe County Public Library bookstore.

Betty was a "kinkeeper" who treasured and cultivated connections among many people. For many in her extended family, she was the last of the strong and sustaining stock of her generation. She always enjoyed genealogy and all kinds of family stories, from the tales of her Edson forebears such as "born on a mountaintop" Davy Crockett and Anna Edson Taylor, who survived a barrel ride over Niagara Falls, to lore revealed by son Brian's research tracking the Elkins family back to the early Indiana territory. She could trace all kinds of family webs in the local area, and often proudly repeated son-in-law Perry Anderson's observation that Bill knew everyone in Monroe County and Betty knew how they were all related.

Among the dear friends who sustained her throughout her long life, are her Friday morning Cracker Barrel breakfast group, her home economics club members and her many friends at Clear Creek Christian Church, which she attended for her entire adult life.

In addition to her husbands Willard and Bill, Betty was predeceased by her sisters, Mary Edson Breeden Coleman and Irene Edson Dillard, brothers Paul Edson and Leonard Edson, granddaughter Angela Elkins Schoonover, and stepdaughters Jill Jacobs Anderson (Perry), Betty Jacobs Allen (John) and stepdaughter-in-law, Sharon Jacobs (Ronald).

Survivors include sons Stephen Elkins Sr. (Marti), of Flat Rock, NC; Deborah Elkins Froelich (Nicholas) of Midlothian, Va., and Brian Elkins (Sharon), of Galesburg, Ill.; stepson Ronald Jacobs, of Columbus, Ind., and stepdaughter Jackie Jacobs Axsom (Lee), of Smithville, Ind.

Surviving grandchildren and stepgrandchildren include Erin Elkins (Tomas), Albuquerque, NM, and Stephen Elkins Jr., Aurora, Colo.; Samuel Froelich (Emily), N. Chesterfield, Va., and Philip Froelich, Richmond, Va.; Thomas Elkins, Galesburg, Ill.; Chris Elkins (Guia), Carlsbad, Cal.; and Amy Elkins, Galesburg, Ill.; Kip Jacobs (Megan), Columbus, Ind., and Ava Jacobs Harris (Jason), Columbus, Ind.; Ronald Dean Allen, Mitchell, Ind. and Travis Allen, Davenport, Fla; Kate Anderson Curtis (Bryan) Greenwood, Ind.; Sara Anderson, Erlanger, Ky.; Jennifer Axsom Adler (Warren), Kingsport, Tenn.; Rachel Axsom O'Connor (John), Bloomington, Ind. and Kimberly Axsom Riggins (David), Bloomfield, Ind.

Betty also is survived by numerous great-grandchildren and dear nieces and nephews, especially her beloved nieces Sue May and Nancy Kaster.

The family would like to express its gratitude to staff and caregivers of Bell Trace Senior Living Center, Bell Trace Health and Living and Paradigm Health Hospice for all their care and concern.

Visitation will be held at Allen Funeral Home (4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN 47401), on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 11-1pm, with the funeral service at 1pm. Burial will follow at Clear Creek Cemetery.

For those wishing to make a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers, please designate donation to Clear Creek Christian Church for maintenance of the historic church building.

Cemetery Details

Clear Creek Cemetery

W Church Lane
Bloomington, IN 47403

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

BE

“ 1 file added to the album REUNITED



Brian Elkins - March 25 at 05:26 PM

RE

“ So sorry to hear about your mother. I wish you comfort and peace with your loss. I remember her well from Steve and my high school days, a very pleasant, caring lady. Sorry I am not able to visit or attend services today. Roger Eads

Roger Eads - March 21 at 02:23 PM

SS

Roger - thanks for your kind message. We had some great high school days! Great to hear from you! Steve E.

Stephen Elkins Sr - March 22 at 07:47 AM

PG

“ Pam Gordon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Louise Elkins Jacobs.

Pam Gordon - March 19 at 12:06 PM

PG

“ Pam Gordon purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Betty Louise Elkins Jacobs.



Pam Gordon - March 19 at 12:06 PM

BS

“ Betty was such a sweet & caring lady who will be missed dearly ❤️
When I was a kid I used to go with my Grandma & Grandpa
Simpson to Betty & Willard's to get vegetables from their garden!
Willard had the biggest garden I had ever seen. Thinking of her dear
sweet family ❤️ 🙏

Brenda Brown Scholl - March 14 at 11:03 AM

CK

“ Debrah, so sorry to hear about your sweet little mom, she was such
a joy to be around

cindy krouse - March 14 at 12:02 AM

EH

“ Betty was a beautiful soul and will be missed.
A lot of wonderful memories growing up with Betty and Willard as
our neighbors. ❤️

Eddie McNeely Henderson - March 13 at 08:15 PM

MD

“ We loved having Betty as our client at Stylemakers Salon for so many years !!! She was there each week like clockwork & such a delight to have her visit and talk and hear about her family and getting primped in the same time !!! We will surely miss her so much !!! She was a special lady inside and out !!! This world will be lost without her !!! We always looked forward to seeing her !!! Gods speed Betty !!! Sending hugs up to Heaven !!! !!! Prayers to the the family !!! Love Marti Doering and Jim Doering

marti Diering - March 12 at 08:12 PM

NR

“ My Mom Frances was Betty's friend since 1st grade at Kirksville School. We would visit back and forth when we were kids and have the best time playing games on their porch, especially one called Pit! I'm going to miss Betty terribly; she was a bright spot and so much fun to be around.
Nancy (Francisco) Roberts

Nancy Roberts - March 12 at 06:22 PM

MT

“ I got to know and love Betty through Clear Creek Christian church and the hospital gift shop💕 we were in a bible study group together for a short time and she was always sharing her love of Jesus and sewing! She was a Fun older woman to be around 😊

Michele Taylor - March 12 at 11:32 AM

AE

“ *When I was a child, Grandma would go to the salon, and we’d call it getting her hair ‘pumped.’ I remember waiting eagerly for her to come home, her hair so perfectly styled, just like the way she always made us feel special. She had a way of bringing beauty and comfort to every day.* ”



Amy Elkins - March 12 at 08:24 AM

DC

Betty was a true lady. A very sweet lady. She always appreciated it when you came for a visit. She will be missed by many. Sincere sympathy and prayers for all the family. Hang on to all your wonderful memories. Ron and Diana Choate

Diana Jacobd Choate - March 12 at 12:06 PM

GF

Betty was such a wonderful Godly woman. She was such a joy to be around. She will be greatly missed. God sure has gained a wonderful Angel. Sure will miss you Miss Betty 😭

Ginger L Fowler - March 12 at 04:09 PM

SE

Thanks for the kind comments about Mother! Steve Elkins

Stephen Elkins - March 14 at 05:43 AM

NE

“ *Nathan & Sheila Elkins, Shelly Ellsworth purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Betty Louise Elkins Jacobs.* ”



Nathan & Sheila Elkins, Shelly Ellsworth - March 12 at 05:59 AM

SE

“ *Sadly missed! Love - Steve*

Stephen Elkins - March 11 at 09:01 PM

AE

“ *Very many of my childhood memories revolve around the creek and time spent with Grandma and Grandpa. I cherish every memory.*



Amy Elkins - March 11 at 06:05 PM

SE

“ *Mom - Godspeed! Steve*



Stephen Elkins - March 11 at 05:16 PM

NI

Betty was ALWAYS smiling. She was ready to go to her new home because Betty was a true believer.

Nat Hill IV - March 12 at 10:39 AM

SE

Thanks for the kind comments! Steve Elkins

Stephen Elkins - March 14 at 05:42 AM

SE

Nancy - you were an important part of Mom's life. I hope she and Francis are reunited! They were such good friends. Thanks - Steve Elkins

Stephen Elkins - March 14 at 05:45 AM