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# AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Of KENVIL GILES ATKINS

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Official Website

Of

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## **WINGS**

Kenvil Atkins was born, on October 7, 1952, in Micoud, St. Lucia, then still a British territory in the Caribbean, the second of five children, Kenvil was known by several pet names as a little boy, including "Wings", "Bones" and "Manchie." His father Gonzague H Atkins was a Mechanical engineer for a notable British company. His wife, Sylvestina Lewis Atkins, was an expert welder.

Kenvil was raised by his grandfather who accumulated significant wealth and, as a result, Ken lived a privileged childhood. His education began at an early age of five in the village of Saltibus and went on to finish high school in the village of Micoud where he graduated high school, Ken's particular talent during his high school days were many, he was very partial to art and drama which earned him a special commendation by the ruling Governor of the Island which also happens to be his uncle, Kenvil wanted to someday become a writer and follow in the footsteps of his uncle Nobel Laureates, Sir William Arthur Lewis, later Ken went on to pursue and further his education in the United States.

After high school Kenvil took a job in the village where he grew up as a teenager as a Kindergarten teacher working with pre school kids, Kenvil loved to cook, in his free time he would volunteer to cook for his grandmother whom he was very fond of this talent would follow him throughout his career, later on he developed a penchant for French cuisine; his big break came when he was employed by Halcyon Days hotel as a prep cook training under the supervision of British master chef Cyril Monahan he patiently learned all aspects of the culinary arts during the six months of private lessons he received. With a goal of adapting sophisticated French cuisine for mainstream Caribbean visitors and native alike, three years later he left Halcyon Days as a full fledged Garde Manager Chef.

However his love for teaching was strong and would lead him to the City where he taught third grade student under the leadership of catholic priest Rev R. Jesse, there he also took up a second night job with the hotel chain Holiday Inn as a Garde Manager Chef working under several seasonal head chefs. While working in the city Kenvil met his future bride Therese after a two year romance they were married.

In 1977, five years later Kenvil left his wife behind, quit both jobs and travel to the United States to join his parents who resided in the state of Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee. During his stay in Milwaukee Kenvil continued to work for the hotel chain Holiday Inn in Milwaukee as a chef and only left the company after it went bankrupt "said the Food and Beverage Director about Ken" Without question we have only tapped a small portion of his creative genius, his plating abilities is outstanding, his knowledge of food shows the years of formal and patient training, I believe this gentleman possesses great cooking abilities. [Thomas D Badger Food & Beverage Director] later Ken accepted a position with the Heinemann's Restaurant company, (John Byron's) as a Sous Chef, there he met executive chef Sanford D. Amato, Kenvil love for teaching also played a major part during his stay with John Byron's, he join the Wisconsin Culinary chapter Chef's and Cook Culinary Club Inc, also started mentoring student cooks attending the nearby college Milwaukee Technical College.

Among the many student he taught and inspire there was one who stood out from the rest, a young man by the name of Jim Duhane; he went on to become the Executive chef at the Warsaw Country Club, also a female student acquired a position as a chef with the Howard Johnson Motel company. Between working and mentoring ken also found time to take part in certain activities such as Milwaukee school district Career Awareness Program, answering the call of Victoria Emmerson guidance Consular of Browning School, Kenvil join the Junior Achievement of Wisconsin Inc , mentoring third grade student in the Milwaukee district, LaShanna Brown program manager, each year on Labor Day people from all over Milwaukee attend the MDA Festival to enjoy music , clowns and magicians etc, in 1993 \$110,000 was raised Kenvil donated his time enthusiasm and compassion to that event, Bastille days in Milwaukee held annually Storm the Bastille Run/Walk , walkers re-enact the historic French Revolution on the streets of Milwaukee Kenvil has volunteered his time working on the festival grounds five consecutively years, Ken has volunteer his time to many other charity events such as, Blue Jazz BBQ Festival, Tripoli Country Club Chef's Benefit Dinner for Charles McCutcheon. And at the Milwaukee Zoological Society to name a few.

In 1979-80 he enrolled at Milwaukee Area Technical College in an associate degree program, for Business Organization & Management, he also took some class in Psychology Human Relations. Juggling school and work. "Most of the management job offered required a degree of some sort," He said, "my goal is to secure a job in that field." Although he enjoyed cooking and writing short poems he regularly submitted unsolicited manuscripts at free contest held online, international library of poetry awarded him their prestigious editor's choice award for outstanding achievement displaying a unique perspective and original creativity for his poem "Natural Mystic", which was also publish the following year. Kenvil work at John Byrons for eight years after which the restaurant shut down, "said John B Burns owner of the restaurant "Throughout our association Ken has been terrific in every way. He has a good upbeat attitude and is always willing to experiment or try something different he also has a natural sense of taste and appearance, something that is all too rare in our industry! Plus, he is a genuine pleasure to deal with.[John B Burns owner of the Heinemann's co-operation group] after that Ken moved to Appleton Wisconsin where he took on the position of Executive chef at the Le' Bon Appetite' restaurant.

Kenvil work for Le' Bon Appetite for a year during that time he found out that the collaboration between him and the proprietor was not beneficial to him, with mutual agreement he left his employment and return home to Milwaukee. Ken wanted to take a breather before going back to the work place but that was not to be, several country clubs in the

city contacted him for opportunity of employment, he accepted a position as Sous Chef, with Blue Mound Golf and Country Club. The next five years he work for the club, one of the things he most loved while working there was the monthly gazette the club publish, Ken contributed to the paper with a column entitled chef's corner " Food for Thought" every month he wrote up a new article which was well received by the club members.

In 1994 Ken left Blue Mound Country Club and the culinary arts and science, "Said Beatrice" Mr. Atkins has brought many new menus to our kitchen and has an exemplary record for attendance, willingness to adapt to changes, and is always more than willing to do whatever is asked of him. [Beatrice Pockey Office Manager], after twenty four years working as a chef and manager Ken call it quits, having accomplish all that he wanted to in the culinary field he decided it was time to move on to a new field of Endeavour, Ken accepted a position with M&I Data Services in their Information Technology department that same year.

In 1994 Kenvil work in the Print Service as a temporary tape operator, because of his dedication and hard work he was hired as a peripheral operator, after a short time Ken was promoted to a tape librarian."Said the Print Service Manager about Ken" he has taken the initiative to learn new things and make changes in the tape library to improve the efficiency of the area, he has on many occasion, when workloads demanded extra effort, put aside his personal life and put forth the effort necessary to complete the job. [Steve Mau Print Service Manager]. It's 7:53 p.m. on Sunday and you are enjoying a relaxing evening with your family when the phone rings, it's your boss A critical piece of equipment has failed at the datacenter A possible disaster looms, you are instructed to pack a bag and fly out that night on a 10:30 p.m. chartered flight to the New Jersey recovery center, your boss is not sure how long you will be



gone –just get to the airport by 10: 00 p.m.

This scenario above was not an exercise or a fictitious situation; it actually occurred on March 17, 1997 Ken flew out that night for the Datacenter prepared to handle the situation as it unfold, this assignment s has been taking place in New Jersey; Com Disco recovery site. Kenvil has participated for five straight years, first as a tape librarian and later as a computer operator.

By now Kenvil was very comfortable working in his role as a tape librarian in the print service department , but he kept his eyes on moving upward to the computer operator role in the command center, the position needed someone with computer knowledge which at the time Ken's knowledge of computers was limited, turning his attention to the education center he enrolled with the ACI Technology Training Services an successfully completed the course of study in DB2 Application Development receiving a certificate of achievement, next he enrolled in a computer base training classes (CBT) UNIX – Overview, and UNIX – Exploring the file system he successfully completed several course and received a certificate of achievement . next he enrolled in the Professional Development Certification Program a two year certification program which he received a spotlight award and a certificate of achievement, 'Pamela Lager wrote of him' the commitment you have made to your ongoing professional development is

commendable, and we know that your additional knowledge will contribute to our success as a company, congratulations on completing your certification.

October 5, 1997 Kenvil got transfer to the Command Center at M&I Data Center with a new job title, he was promoted to Command Center Technician I, Ken enjoy his role he was now working with computers, main frame computers. Ken excel in his new position responsibilities, he performing system IPL, Critical Path, Schedulers, IMS Procedures Modification and console monitoring “ said Paul Kopf hammer” I believe ken is doing a good job in learning his new job responsibilities. [Paul Kopf hammer Supervisor] 180 days initial review. For the next two years Kenvil receive perfect attendance recognition, he also receive many awards such as the ensemble award, applause award, and many other recognizable awards.

June 1, 2000 Kenvil got transferred to Open Systems department at the Datacenter, by then the company had changed name and was going by the name Metavante, the Open Systems was form to increase productivity, by now desktop computers and Laptop computers were introduce to the department, the new department was call Production Support, on July 26, 2001 Ken was promoted to Production Support Technician II, Kenvil work for the company for ten years he got laid off in November 2003 the same year he turn fifty. “Said Dennis Kuester” in his letter to Ken, I am saddened by the impact that Metavante most recent reorganization has had on a number of skilled, productive and loyal employees I did read your letter and want to personally thank you for your ten years of service and I am sure that with your experience you will be able to find another opportunity that will allow you to take advantage of your talent. [Dennis J Kester President CEO].

Three years later May 8, 2006 he was offered an assignment at Catholic Knights in their information system department performing nightly processing of their daily operation, the assignment was suppose to last three months, but a year later Ken was still there working at his post. May 14, 2007 Catholic Knights automated their computer system phasing out a good portion of the nightly processing, making it absolute. “Said Kathy Ochocki Employment Manager” I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the help you have given our IS staff over these last many months. I know I’ve said it before, but we were very fortunate that you were available to step in during a difficult time, be train in our system and take over the night shift. It’s been a pleasure having you at Catholic Knights even on this temporary basis.

January 1, 2008 Kenvil started his own nonprofit business (atkinsi.com) offering help to many individuals and business in the community, one of Ken’s favorite business charity is a well known child care organization in the Green Bay area, he works as the database administrator for the organization Kenvil also return to Catholic Knights employment as a part time permanent job with the company, Ken works as a Security Guard on the weekends leaving him enough time to run his own business. In October 2014 Kenvil Atkins turn the age of sixty two he retired from his job at Catholic Financial and took early retirement from social security, Kenvil now has more time to do all the things he was not able to do such as travelling social recreation and working on finishing writing his books Read more about Kenvil in his soon to be publish book – Full Circle under Fire a black man struggle in white America

Written by his daughter, Ann G Atkins.



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