



## Kelsey Lane Merritt

May 19, 1992 - May 17, 2026

A bright light went out in the world upon the loss of our beautiful and beloved Kelsey Lane Merritt on May 17, 2026, two days shy of her 34th birthday. Kelsey's parents Mike and Marian Merritt and older brother Jonathon (J.D.) welcomed her with tremendous joy when she was born in 1992 in Richmond, Texas. Known for her enduring kindness, adventurous spirit and pursuit of perfection, Kelsey had a happy childhood spending time at the family retreat, Dos Lagos, attending numerous sporting events as a spectator until she herself could begin competing, spending many hours reading, studying, drawing and dreaming of great things, and also traveling with her grandmother Pat. Her artistic nature was evident throughout her life, and she always had a project either in progress or was actively planning the next one. A lover of all creatures great and small like her mother, Kelsey lavished love on many pets, bringing home a number

of cats and dogs in need of a better life and always helping out animals in need.

A gifted athlete, Kelsey was recognized as first team All-State in both Track and Cross

Country having run in middle and high school. She also qualified as an All-State

Academic athlete. Kelsey was awarded a scholarship to Angelo State University, where

she attained her Bachelor's degree in 2014 and two years later her Masters degree.

She always successfully managed both academics and sports achievements concurrently and was also awarded a Carr grant for academic excellence.

After graduation, her zest for adventure and the challenge of improving the lives of

others first took her to Dallas to work in professional recruiting and employee training.

While there, Kelsey also pushed herself to pursue a passion for entertaining others by

being part of a local improv group at Improv Comedy Club Dallas. The corporate world

did not provide the opportunity to improve people's lives as much as Kelsey had hoped,

so in 2022 she became a licensed massage therapist, providing a healing touch to

soothe body and soul. In 2023, she returned to corporate work as a human resources

specialist for several years, where she excelled in helping new employees acclimate to

their positions, including creating programs to assist women in leadership,

veterans in  
the workplace, and just generally helping fellow team members pursue  
wellness. In  
early 2026, as she began seeking a career that would provide more personal  
fulfillment  
and a way to impact others, she returned to massage therapy, creating her  
own  
company, Chair Massage by Kelsey. Kelsey was traveling back from Colorado  
when her

tragic accident occurred, and it gives her family solace to know that she was  
scouting  
out her next adventure and a better horizon to enhance a life helping others.

With her inherent generosity and selfless dedication, Kelsey was a frequent  
volunteer  
for Habitat for Humanity and the Central Texas Food Bank in Rockdale and  
Cameron.  
Her family lost track of all the time she volunteered at area animal shelters  
over the  
years.

Preceded in death by her infant sister Jessica, paternal grandfather Bill Merritt  
and maternal  
grandparents Ben and Ellen Urbanek, Kelsey is survived by her parents, Mike  
and  
Marian Merritt, brother J.D. Merritt and his wife L.J., and grandmother Pat  
Merritt. She is  
also survived by nieces Lilly Merritt and Blakely Sumner, nephews Lincoln and  
Kelton

Sumner and baby nephew Cash Merritt, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends left to treasure the memory of a girl with the most beautiful smile and an intensely compassionate heart.

A memorial service is scheduled for June 4, 2026 at 1:30 p.m at Circle C Barn in Caldwell, TX. Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Caldwell will be coordinating the memorial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kelsey's honor to Habitat for Humanity, Central Texas Food Bank, Genesis Women's Shelter, or an animal shelter or rescue of your choice. The family will have a basket and they have requested loved ones bring a letter composed to Kelsey with any memories or thoughtful words you would like to share.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 4. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Circle C Barn at Copperas Creek  
245 Country Club Dr  
Caldwell, TX 77836

## Reception

JUN 4. 2:30 PM (CT)

Circle C Barn at Copperas Creek  
245 Country Club Dr  
Caldwell, TX 77836

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ Monica D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

Monica D. - June 07 at 03:40 PM

TF

“ The Barton Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



The Barton Family - June 04 at 10:25 AM

TF

“ The Barton Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

The Barton Family - June 04 at 10:25 AM

GT

“ God Bless, Monty, Maegan, Margo Teykl purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



God Bless, Monty, Maegan, Margo Teykl - June 04 at 09:26 AM

MT

“ Murray and Susan Teykl purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Murray and Susan Teykl** - June 04 at 12:42 AM

TR

“ The R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**The R.** - June 03 at 10:28 PM

HF

“ Hailey & Hannah Hundl & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Hailey & Hannah Hundl & Family** - June 03 at 08:06 PM

HF

“ Hailey & Hannah Hundl & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Hailey & Hannah Hundl & Family** - June 03 at 08:06 PM

DM

“ I sort of knew Kelsey from visiting daughter Monica at Angelo State. I felt better about Monica's world because she had Kelsey as a friend. So sorry for your loss. Dennis McCafferty.

Dennis McCafferty - June 03 at 05:51 PM



“ Love and Prayers for the Merritt family.

Ken DeHart - June 03 at 02:35 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



June 03 at 11:01 AM

KS

“ Kelsey was one of, if not the, hardest working athlete's I've had the pleasure of coaching in my 38 years. Although she spent the majority of time with the distance coach, Coach Walters, her hard work and dedication didn't go unnoticed by me or her teammates. Our heartfelt sympathy go out to Coach, Marian and their entire family. Love, John & Keri Slanina

Keri Slanina - June 02 at 09:17 PM

AS

“ Andrew Sinclair purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Andrew Sinclair** - June 02 at 07:33 PM

DS

“ Deanna S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Deanna S.** - June 02 at 04:28 PM

TL

“ Trevor lawrence purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Trevor lawrence** - June 02 at 09:46 AM

TL

“ Trevor lawrence planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Trevor lawrence** - June 02 at 09:46 AM

ST

“ Shelley and Stanley Tuttle purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Shelley and Stanley Tuttle** - June 02 at 09:20 AM

ST

“ Shelley and Stanley Tuttle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Shelley and Stanley Tuttle** - June 02 at 09:20 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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June 02 at 08:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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June 02 at 08:05 AM

T&

“ Timmy &. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Timmy &.** - June 01 at 11:59 AM



“ *In Heaven's Arms Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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May 29 at 02:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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May 29 at 02:23 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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May 28 at 10:09 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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May 26 at 02:25 PM

AJ

“ Arlene and Kevin Jurgajtis purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Arlene and Kevin Jurgajtis** - May 26 at 02:00 PM

BF

“ Brady Kubena and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Brady Kubena and family** - May 26 at 12:57 PM

BF

“ Brady Kubena and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.

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**Brady Kubena and family** - May 26 at 12:57 PM

DF

“ Debbie Urbanek and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.



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**Debbie Urbanek and family** - May 26 at 11:16 AM

DF

“ *Debbie Urbanek and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kelsey Lane Merritt.*

Debbie Urbanek and family - May 26 at 11:16 AM

NO

“ *Norris purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kelsey Lane Merritt.*



Norris - May 26 at 09:56 AM

MT

“ *My sincere condolences to you Mike and Marian for the loss of your beautiful daughter Kelsey. She was a delight and inspiration to all. I admired her talent and dedication to the Drama productions at EBHS. She was a joy to have in the classroom. I pray for you, her brother, grandmother and family members that God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely*

*Marjorie Tydlacka (Ms. T)*

*EBHS Drama Teacher 2007-2013*

Marjorie Tydlacka - May 25 at 10:54 PM

LB

“ *Kelsey was so filled with energy, but she always took the time to be attentive and patient with others. She overflowed with joy and kindness and intelligence and will be missed by all who loved her.*  
*Lucy Baros*

Lucy Baros - May 25 at 10:37 PM

LS

“ We extend our heartfelt condolences on your tragic loss. May Kelsey rest peacefully in the light of heaven. May God grant you all His comfort and peace.

*Leroy and Marilyn Stavinoha*



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**Leroy and Marilyn Stavinoha** - May 25 at 04:36 PM

NZ

“ Our deepest condolences to Mike and Marian and the entire family as they mourn the death of Kelsey. May your memories and your belief in life everlasting bring you comfort and peace.



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**Nancy and Pete Zenner** - May 25 at 01:31 PM